Charlestown (Mass.) Nov. 21st 1833

Dear Sir.

On a visit to my friend Mr. C. B. Clark at your house in June I was led by him to believe that you would favorably recieve an application from me to solve some difficulties which have opposed me in satisfactorily determining the species of several troublesome genera of plants. The only thing which has decided me to address you is the impression that you may be glad of an opportunity to examine them, being from the Southern States; and to which you will be heartily welcome. My wish is simply to ascertain their names as referred by yourself.

It is my wish that you give yourself no trouble about it, freely refusing unless the project meets your pleasure, though I should be glad of a line to apprise me of your will that I may act accordingly.

The genera which I allude to above are Solidago, Aster, Cyperas, Scirpus, Rhynchospora, and perhaps a few scattered ones of other Orders.

Hoping that I have not offensively obtruded myself upon you

I remain your obt. servant

Moses A Curtis.

Dr John Torrey
New York.

CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
OF
COLUMBIA
UNIVERSITY.

Charlestown Dec. 11th 1833

Wm. Feby 4th

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Dear Sir

I am highly gratified by your consent to examine my plants, and will make up a package for you as soon as I hear from you upon the mode of sending it (by sea or by the mail route) and to what address. I shall be happy in furnishing you with such plants as I can spare from my collection and will add a few ~~as~~ to the package as I come across ~~these~~ which I think will prove acceptable. My harbarium is not yet arranged since my return from the south and it will be difficult for me to find time to select from the whole at present. I have it in contemplation to publish a catalogue of plants found in the neighborhood of Wilmington N. C. in the course of the year, and from that you can make a selection of such species as you desire, and where I have duplicates you shall be welcome to them. I have no intention of pushing the publication upon the community, and shall accomplish my present purpose only as I find that local catalogues are really desirable. Upon this subject I am anxious to learn your opinion, and that you may the more readily form it I will state that this locality is probably the most interesting botanical region in the U. S., about a thousand species being found within two miles of the village. And should you think it best for me to prosecute the plan, in what way is it best executed? In a separate volume — or in some periodical, as Silliman's Journal? As to its arrangement, should the plants be in an alphabetical list, or in the order of natural or artificial clases? I am not at all anxious to fulfil my purpose of publication for it will cost me labor which I can ill devote to it, but I am willing to do it if I can make it useful to Botanists. The end in view will I think be fully answered without a scientific arrangement, but by a simple enumeration of the plants with some few remarks on doubtful species.

I was fully aware of your situation in the Med. Coll. and had no wish

to intrude upon your duties; and I hope that you will decline my proposition unless you shall be able to profit yourself by it. I am in no need of any haste, and I hope you will take your own time in complying with my request to examine the specimens.

Your obedient servt

Moses A Curtis.

CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Ans^d

Charlestown Feb. 14th 1854.

Rec^d Feby 18th

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Dear Sir.

I have shipped a box of plants directed to you on board Sch^r Pequot, Capt. Lovell, which sails to morrow. The vessel puts into Quince Slip and is consigned to Rider & Lewis with whom the box will be left if you do not recieve it at the vessel before she returns. I am not enough acquainted in New York to determine if this be a favorable or convenient spot to recieve it at, and the Captain knew little better than myself. I hope however that the above direction will be a sufficient clue for finding the parcel. If any casualty prevents you finding it, I hope you will let me know it that I may make enquiry when the Sch^r returns.

After recieving your first letter I commenced putting up a few plants as I had leisure, and had added considerably beyond my original intention, which was merely to secure your own valuable references of a few doubtful plants; after your last letter I made a new selection, by which you recieve a larger list of Grasses & Cyperaceae as well as several other plants, which I thought might prove acceptable. I have in most cases taken such species as are peculiar to the Southern district. I would have added some more which might not have been unwelcome, if there had been room in my box. It will give me the highest pleasure to learn that any of them are new to you — either undescribed species or such as have not been before recieved by you.

At any rate, I suppose that, if possessing no intrinsic value, they will serve as exchange plants for your correspondents.

I have included a number of plants in the package which I am unwilling to dispose of, being the only specimens I possess. All such I have sent for you to look at, if perhaps you might find anything new or unusual among them. They are marked with a cross (+) denoting that I should like to have them returned.

I have ventured to remark upon a few plants which I hope you will excuse. I have not given the specific names in very many cases, having substituted letters, designating those in my herbarium by the same for future reference. This mode will conceal my own ignorance, if nothing more. But I adopted it at the outset for convenience, to save time and the latter to designate such species as include several varieties, and to mark the same plant which might lie in different parts of my collection without labels. My plants being confused, I have in some cases I presume repeated them. As an instance. I found a Trichodium in three places, and sent all without the time to examine if they were the same, yet I presume they

It will give me pleasure to learn your references of all the plants which I send, but if inconsistent with other duties or an unpleasant task I hope you will freely excuse yourself, and confine yourself to Solidago, Aster, Panicum, Cyperus, Rhynchospora, and the like of them. Some of the Rhynchosporae I have been unable to refer to any known species. — I have sought your references in these Genera as a sort of nuclei around which I might gather other species with more order and accuracy. If in the others I find your references like my own I shall be able to exercise the more confidence hereafter, a state of mind to which I have not yet attained. I am sorry that I did not pay more attention to Carices while at the South. I collected only about thirty species, all of which are well defined except the two which I have sent you. I purpose to return to N. Carolina next Fall and if the duties of my profession will admit of it I will take pleasure in securing for you such species of this Genus, or any other indeed, as I may meet with. I take the more pleasure in furnishing you with what specimens I have

a shall be able to procure, since I learn from Dr McRee that you are preparing an American Flora. I have long hoped for this from you, that we may have an entire Flora of the country and be rid of the egotism and charlatanry of Mr Eaton. I have felt this want particularly while herborizing in the Southern States, as I have found Elliott's Sketch very incomplete, and I have been obliged to use Eaton's Manual because it was the only work that contained the latest discoveries. Any assistance which I can render towards forwarding your labor will be freely given.

You are very kind in offering your aid to the completion of my Catalogue. All that will be needed lies in the determination of the plants which I have sent you, so far as I am at present acquainted with the nature of the undertaking. I shall be ready to commence a review of my collection and the arrangement of the Catalogue as soon as I receive a return from you. To avoid expense, which I am unable to sustain, I have supposed that some periodical journal of Science would be the best medium of publication, and the most practicable method of securing the end of which I wish to secure — that of diffusing information.

I have been sometime expecting a copy of the Newberry Catalogue, but have not yet received one — Also, a Catalogue of Kentucky plants from Prof. Short.

If Mr A. Clark is still with you, please to present my respects to him. — Believe me very truly

Your friend

Thomas A Curtis.

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

CHARLESTOWN
Feb 15
MASS.

PAID

1834

Dr John Torrey

New York.

Charlestown May 5th 1834

ans? July 18th 1834

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Dear Sir,

An opportunity offering to send to New York I take the liberty of transmitting a plant which I overlooked in making up the package sent by Schr. Pequot, and about which some doubts have arisen. I collected this specimen at Charleston S. C. but have others from N. Carolina. — Do you consider Poa autumnalis, Ell. & P. pungens, Nutt. identical species?

By an examination of the genus Galega, of which I have all the species in the U. S. that are described, I am induced to believe that it is confused, & that two species are included under G. hispidula. The G. gracilis, Nutt. of which I sent you a specimen, is evidently G. hispidula, Mx. The G. hispidula of Pk. & Ell,. I think is a different species. The characters of this latter, uniform in hundreds of specimens which I carefully observed two seasons, are as follows.

Stem decumbent, pubescent, angled; Leaves 5–6 inches long, the petiole naked about a third of its length; (Leaves subsessile in G. hispidula, Mx.) Leaflets 4–7 pair & an odd one, truly cuneate, obovate or oblong, 10–15 lines long, 4–8 broad, truncately obtuse, generally emarginate, with a short rigid mucro, smooth above, more or less pubescent beneath, strongly veined, & somewhat ribbed beneath, veins colored. Peduncles large, flattened, somewhat 2 edged, about as long as the leaves, partial ones 3–4 lines long. Legume mostly falcate, with a short but thick whitish pubescence.

The flower & fruit of these two plants present differences in a comparison of specimens, but a description cannot be very well drawn which will accurately define them. The expressions "foliolis parvulis" & "pedunculis elongatis" of Michaux cannot apply to the plant here described; but they well describe the plant which I sent you as G. gracilis. Yet Nuttall says "peduncles about the length of the leaves" under G. gracilis, & this seems to me the only ground he could have had for separating it from G. hispidula, Mx.; his other verbal differences may be easily reconciled. But may he not have described from a young or imperfect specimen? That his preparation

of this genus was hasty and not well digested may be fairly argued, not only from his adopting this species as distinct from Michaux' filiant, but from his describing G. parcifolia as a new plant, while there is no doubt of its being G. villosa, Mx. which he referred to G. chrysophylla, Pk. — The confusion which he has occasioned in the genus Galactia also shows that he is not always accurate in his observations. I have no intention of detracting from the merits of Mr Nuttall, since I owe more to his work for the little knowledge I have of Botany than to any other. But Homer sometimes napped.

These two plants grow abundantly about Wilmington N. C. and as my attention was early called to them I had every opportunity of comparing them. Their distinctive characters, whether they prove specific or not, are permanent so far as I have observed. The G. gracilis is usually erect, the other never. Both are more or less pubescent according to age and exposure. I regret that I did not send you a specimen of each, but in my haste I overlooked the one I have described, though I presume you have it. If not, and you wish it, I will send you one.

I presume you have recieved the box of plants which I sent to you, but as I have never heard from you I [redacted] felt somewhat anxious about it. I repeat the offer of plants from my collection which you might like to see, though I have no idea that I possess any which you do not.

Excuse the liberty I have taken in presenting the above remarks. They are the substance of what I had intended to embody in a review of this genus, and I am desirous of having them confirmed or disputed by better authority than mine before committing myself.

Yours respectfully

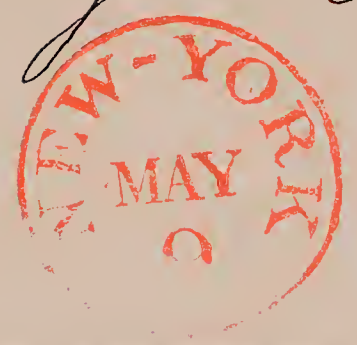
Moses A Curtis

Dr John Torrey
New York.

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Dr John Torrey

New York



Charlestown July 27th 1834

Rec'd Sept. 2nd

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Dear Sir,

I was very happy to recieve your letter & learn the safe arrival of my plants. I was highly gratified by the assurance of them being no unwelcome present, as also that the package contained some species that were before unknown to you. I have been long persuaded that several of them were not to be found, at least in the American Floras. Your examination of my small collection has tested the sage remark of Eaton that there is not an undescribed species east of the Mississippi. There is still a wide field for investigation in the low country of the S. States, as well as in the mountains. There are several months of the year in which it is very dangerous even for a native to visit the swamps and extensive marshes of the south, and almost certainly fatal to a stranger. In the second season of my residence at the south I once ventured into a rice field during the hot season, where I found the richest display of flowers I ever beheld. I gathered several plants which I never met with any where else, and I doubt not, if I could have continued my researches in such localities through an entire season, that I should have added very considerably to my list.

I shall visit N. York in October if I go south at that time as I now contemplate, when I will take along a portion of my spare plants for you, if that will be in season. Or if particularly desirable, I will endeavor to send them by an earlier opportunity. A few of those you marked (#) I have duplicates of, as of some other southern plants, which are at your service! — Whether I shall be able to send you

seeds and coats of southern plants is more than I can now promise, though I shall be glad to do it if my future situation (as yet undetermined) will permit. I have no doubt that Dr. McRee will engage in such a collection with great pleasure, & I will address him on the subject. Some of the most interesting plants are extremely shy of cultivation, and the seeds of many will not germinate as I have proved. If you will make out a list I will endeavor to collect them.

In regard to your list of plants from my package, I am glad to be confirmed in several things, and to be corrected in some important errors. I had detected a few in late examinations. I put them up in haste, well knowing that you needed no aid of mine in determining them, and had well nigh sent a Trichloschin for a Plantago, having so labelled it before my eye fell upon its peculiar fruit. If you find oversights of this kind I shall not be surprised, & much less so at errors of ignorance. I have had no facilities for comparison of specimens until very lately since my return, which is very necessary in extensive genera where books often differ very widely.

I take the liberty of making a few remarks and enquiries on your list. Panicum (f) & P.(w). If I recollect aright I collected them on the same spot and hesitated upon their identity, but finally separated them upon the characters you mention. In addition to which I note also, that P.(f) has its stem compressed; calyx valves more acute, accessory valve shorter, than in P.(w) which has a round stem, & the accessory valve compressed & singularly incurved at the point. My notes of obscure plants were often hastily made and need reviewing as they may not always be correct. I give them therefore as little worth.

Paspalum (d), which you call P. notatum, Trinius, (so I make out the author – he is a new species to me) I had referred to P. distichum, Ell. & Muhl. – are they the same! Why is the name altered? — — Pasp. purpurascens, Ell,. Is not P. plicatulum, Mx. the same? The descriptions do not materially differ except in the character that Mx. takes his name from.

I have specimens of P. purp. which I at first referred to P. plicat. on the strength of a very singular fold running acrafs the flat valve of the calyx each way (thus ⊕). I examined several specimens of it and all agreed in this character, but it has disappeared in drying. Is not P. debile Mx a var. of P. setaceum? I once found a specimen near the sea coast agreeing with the former in all but the pubescent stem, but it was evidently a stinted P. setaceum. I rather think I have lost the specimen. ——— The Silphium, which I set down to S. pinnatifidum, E. because it came nearer to that than any other, I had intended to offer as a new species previous to my plan of resorting to your did. You do not decide positively upon it. I should like to have your opinion. ——— Carex sp is (a), in your list "C. lanceolata?", has given me a good deal of trouble. It differs very materially from my specimens of C. lanceolata which agree exactly with the description of Ell. — The flower & seed comes nearer to C. gladiata, than to any other species which I know, but differs in every other point. It is always erect, smooth, leafy nearly to the top, where two or three peduncles diverge; while C. lanceolata is procumbent, often having no proper stem, with remarkably long, apillary peduncles; & is thicker in all its parts, more pubescent, and with different shaped leaves. I describe from memory. But I shall call it C. Lanceolata, unleſs you alter it. — Gerardia (e) & G. G. (c), which you consider "uncertain", I find marked the first, G. fasciculata; the other G. setacea? of Ell. Sketch. G. (b) = G. linifolia, N.? ——— I have a specimen of Gerardia from this vicinity (G. tenuifolia, Bw?) with the leaves & peduncles in threes, verticillated like a Lysimachia. This is a novel character to me, have you ever found it? —— Have you got Elliott's Graticola acuminata? — I have fallen into a great error if Le Conte has not a very reckleſs remark upon this plant and the Herpestis cuneifolia of Ell. — I never had any doubt of Ell's correctneſs until I saw Le Conte's article, & I do not know whether to regard his aſsertion as sufficient authority to change my opinion. I have no means of ascertaining the original G. acuminata so that C. may be wrong for all I know. But I believe his H. cuneifolia is right. What is your opinion of G. acuminata Ell?
You mention two species of Ludwigia under one letter (b) — If you find the leaſleſs one different I should like to know its name, as I have no memorandum of any by that No. except L. virgata.
Andromeda (a) you refer with uncertainty to A. ligustrina, but if you can possibly arrive at any certainty upon it, I shall be very glad, as I have become utterly confused in that clasſ of Andromedas which Nuttall calls Lyonia.

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

About two years ago I wrote out descriptions of the species of Spartina. By a reference to these I find that S. juncea & my S. cynosuroides are described word for word alike except that I have got the exterior valve of the calyx $\frac{1}{6}$ longest (!) in the former. This is a little singular, as I described the latter in reference to S. polystachya, without thinking that I was rewriting my S. juncea. Its great resemblance to it I had observed and had supposed that the reason it had been overlooked. I was led into my supposition by its single style. By the way, is it not a larger plant than the real S. juncea, & longer leaved, & with more numerous spikes (3–6). I have seen many an acre of S. juncea but not a plant as large as the one-styled var. You have a double mark of wonder after "Panicum gibbum, Ell!!" which I do not understand. I had so referred it without hesitation.

I am somewhat impatient to hear again from you; your last report has excited much curiosity. I shall hardly get my herbarium in order again until I shall have the communications. — It has occurred to me that that plant you examined may be Spartina cynosuroides, but I sent as "Scirpus roots?" fine fl. I never saw that plant & do not know if mine is right.

There are several plants in your list which want names; I hope you will not forget to furnish them in your future communications. Those which are new I should like to have you furnish descriptions of, if you think it important that they accompany the annunciation of them in my catalogue. I cannot deny that I profess a little of the vanity of discovery & authority, but I cannot very properly put to my credit any more than I had originally intended before applying to you. And if you choose to impose names on the whole of them I have no objection. — The plants which I marked to be returned (+) you can retain until I call for them. Accept assurances of the high respect of

your obt. servt. M. C. Curtis.

Charlestown Sept. 6th 11 1834.

Recd. Sept. 13th
and. 15th

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Dear Sir,

I am very glad that you did not omit writing to me as it appears from your letter you had some thoughts of doing, for I had been some time anxiously hoping to hear from you. I thought I had expressed to you my wish of publishing my paper this month, as I might not be able to attend to it for a long period to come, and was therefore desirous that you would make returns of my species as soon as you could conveniently attend to them. I am glad however that you do not put yourself to any trouble about it, as I should be very unwilling to impose a task upon you that would afford no pleasure to yourself. In expectation of a complete list of my plants from you I had promised a paper on Wilmington plants to the Boston Soc. Nat. Hist.; but as I cannot now finish it, so many of them being unsettled, I shall omit a part of them till a future day, and make out a list of such as are known. You allude in your letter to your having labelled some of my plants which you knew, of which you have given me no list; I would be obliged to you if you can furnish me with them (such as you have satisfactorily settled) that I may add them to my catalogue. I will specify a few which I should particularly like to hear about. Arenaria diffusa? Orchis. Asclepias. Spomaea. Dracocephalum. Mackridea. Astragalus. Agrostis. Sabbatia. Sium. Triglochin. Of all these I have doubts. There may be some of the Asters & Solidagos on which you can confidently pronounce, without the trouble of a close examination - so of Eupatorium, Smilax, Andropogon (a), & some more of the Cyperaceae besides what you have already returned. Any that you can conveniently give

are desirable, others can be omitted until a more favored opportunity for their publication. I dislike the idea of making two papers of them, but in the present uncertainty of my future situation I know not what I can do better. I desire to hear from you within a week. If inconvenient to write, let it all pass, the subject is of no consequence to me.

Allow a few remarks upon some of my plants. The specimen which you call S. simplex I had never settled. It does not agree exactly with Ell's description in the following particulars. Stem 3 angled; Midrib of the glumes green and distinct enough, unless he means simply the nerve, margins chestnut brown. Some other particulars he has omitted, especially in regard to the remarkable seed. — — — Rhynchospora (e) I did not suppose was R. capitellata of any author, I only remarked a similarity in two or three particulars to the plant which I considered as R. capitellata of Ell, not of others. Rhyn. (n) I had referred to R. capitellata of Ell. You have made it new, and allied to R. hiceps, Jo. I had marked it as having a closer affinity to R. glomerata than to any other species known to me, though certainly distinct. I have never come to any further decision in regard to it, and my reference to Ell. is doubtful. The R. (e). R. (d) — R. (g) — R. rariflora (mentioned as resembling that species) and I think another small species allied to R. alba, I had considered as undescribed species. — My Juncus squarrosus I considered undoubtably the plant described by Mx. "panicis-bistil. muticis; setis brevibus. The plant is described the same way in Encyc. Methodique, but by no other writer with whom I am conversant. The J. squarrosus of others I thought a distinct species, but the distinctive characters are wholly beneath the glumes. The question is, whether they are invariable. In my plant they are uniform. Neither in young or old specimens are the petals (?) awned, or the alternating bristles longer than the pedicel of the seed. I have examined a hundred specimens. In a Juncus growing at Jenkstown Mass. the bristles are uniformly long, and the petals awned even in old age, not cordate at base like Ell's description & plate.

My Aristida stricta Mx, I still consider as Michaux' plant as his habitat and description, as far as it goes, apply exactly. Elliott's plant of that name must be at least a flat leaved var. and I have supposed was the other plant which I sent you; and possibly the flat leaved var. of Mich. may be it. The A. stricta, Muhl. Gram. appears to be A. spiciformis, E. A. stricta, Pk. applies well enough, except the habitat. The habit of my plant is very distinct from any other Aristida I am acquainted with and can be recognised as far as it can be seen. The other Aristida (marked A. stricta, E.) I deemed a nov. spec. and shall give it as such unless you dissent. As you appear to have seen Mich:s Herb. will you inform me if I am correct in the above reference. I feel myself exposed to err in proposing new species because I have not the means of extended comparison of specimens, or of reference to the herbaria of authors and accurate botanists. Therefore it is that I solicit your sanction in any that I may offer. Most of the new species I shall give up to yourself for description, which I will make known to you hereafter, as they will not form a part of my present paper. I shall propose but a few new ones in this, say three or four. The Aristida I intend for one of them, and shall therefore be glad of your opinion about it. A Galega, and a Galactia will have new names, probably no more. Michaux' Convolvulus sagittaefolius is interfered with by Smith's C. sagittifolius, Flor. Graec. published two or three years later. Would it be well to substitute an earlier name from Cates by (C. carolinensis) for Mich:s plant? Your Convolvulus arenarius has been anticipated by Muhl, who has a plant of that name from the Azores. Will you allow me to call it by another name, viz. Torreyi?

My Kyllingia has turned out as I expected to be no Kyllingia, but I really knew nothing what to do with it. Its aspect is very different from any Scirpus I ever saw, & I did not think of putting to that genus. Is it not monandrous? — Ranunculus I referred as you have. I found it in a garden, appearing as if introduced. The root was fibrous.

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

The Mentha I found growing on the bank of a rice field in small quantities and so situated as to induce the suspicion of its being exotic. Mr. Lewis Le Conte would of course not find it among our described plants, but he is not enough of a botanist to be relied on in a difficult case. But he is deemed one of the most accomplished chemists in the U. States. — — The Carex you speak of, you are perfectly welcome to keep: It is C. baldwinia, Dewey - described and poorly figured in one of the late numbers of Silliman's Journal. (The C. panicea, L. which Dewey has introduced into our Flora, I have got from Canada!)

TORREY BOTANICAL CLUB
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Dr. John Torrey
New York
N. Y.

PAID

I have lately received a letter from Dr. Chapman of Apalachicola, Florida, in which he announces his intention of visiting the mountains of N. Carolina, and has kept his attention awake to remarks that he should find there some specimens. — I shall be much pleased to receive any thing you may add to my collection. Truly yours

M. A. Curtis.

The viviparous Scirpus I had succeeded in finding imperfect heads of, in a late examination of it. My conjecture that it might be a Syena was sudden and formed without an examination of the plant. — Scleria you have settled as I had done. Cyperus I really know nothing about, there being but about half a dozen species that I had settled satisfactorily, all which you have confirmed. — — My visit to N. Y. next month is yet undecided upon, and my time unsettled. I should should esteem it a high privilege to examine your herbarium, and if able to devote time to the object would solicit the favor on my contemplated journey to Carolina.

Wilmington Feb. 11th 1885

Rec'd Feby. 24th
Ansd. March 17th.

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Dear Sir.

It gave me much pleasure to recieve a letter from you, which was not a little increased from my not having presumed to expect such a favor only in reply to my own, I hope not very troublesome, enquiries. I was much gratified by the information you gave me, and I hope I shall be able to repay you by the contents of this. I am so out of the reach of all scientific information here in N. C. that I expect to become in two or three years quite old-fashioned in botany, especially since it is not within my means to avail myself of the publications of the day. However, specimens never become old fashioned, and I may be able to do something in collecting, which I shall always take pleasure in doing if I can do it without interfering with more important duties. I flatter myself with the hope of being able, by a prudent disposition of time, and arrangement of duties, to devote some time to this object, so as not to disturb my more serious engagements. But this remains to be tested. (I will mention, while I think of it, that I have not yet taken orders, and shall pursue my studies in preparation for them until Spring, perhaps till June.) If my future situation depends upon my own choice I shall take the back part of this State, as I am afraid to risk a summer in the low country.

I have to day recd a letter from Stephen Elliott jun.* from which I make the following extracts, not doubting it will give you much pleasure to reciere such definite information in regard to the Herbm of the lamented Elliott.

"My Father's Herbarium is in the keeping of his family, and is perhaps in better preservation than when he died. It can be examined by any botanist of character, who may desire to consult it, at my house in this place. —

"We have no idea, at present, of selling the herbarium, & have no idea of its value. Indeed in this country, such collections have no money value as they have never been made matters of bargain & sale. — —

"I shall be always glad to answer any enquiries connected with these collections."

The above is all that would afford special interest to you. I am very glad that he has given an account so encouraging and I doubt not, if Dr. Gray should conclude to visit Mr. Elliott. (he lives in Beaufort, S.C.) that he would recieve all the attention which he could desire, and which southern gentlemen are so accustomed to bestow. It may not be amiss for me to mention that if he should visit the South it would be prudent to do it so early that he could leave it before June. I should be very happy to see him here. — — — — A gentleman, by the name of Dr. Barrows lately spent some days here, who informed me that he had sent you a short time previous a fine parcel of Florida plants, which he supposed contained a large number of undescribed species. do let me know in your next

* There are two Stephen Elliotts - the jun distinguishes ours.

what sort of a collection he has made for you. He gave me an enchanting description of Florida. — — I have visited Dr. McRee once, & spent a few days. — he is very much unsettled — cannot do anything at present for botany — has lost his fine collection of exotics this winter — Among his dried plants I found what appears to be Branichis multiflora, Ell., collected on his plantation — Have you got a specimen? — if not, I will send you one. — I have found abundance of Aristida virgata, Trin. this winter which retains some of its flowers until January. — I forgot to mention to you, while in N.Y., that the specimen of Aristida, labelled A. stricta was A. purpurascens, Poir. in the flowers, & A. stricta, Mx.? in the leaves. The two parts did not belong together, but were confounded in my herb^m until after I made up that package for you, and I took parts of two species. I will send you what I believe to be the A. stricta future time. — The plant, labelled Brickellia ??? I concluded was an Ageratum, and which I call for the present A. pusillum, until I have an opportunity of comparing it with A. mexicanum, which it seems to approach by many characters and may possibly prove to be the same. Yet I should not expect to find Exotics where I found that. — The dollar which you borrowed I had forgotten until your letter reminded me of it. If it will pay for your next number of the "Annals of the Lyceum" I will thank you to send me the N^o instead of the money. If not, you can send it as you suggested, in your package to Dr Loomis, directing it to my care in this place, & I will see it forwarded to Newbern. What Loomis is about I know not, I have no acquaintance with him, & have not heard of him.

I have been expecting a N^o of the Boston Journal of Nat. Hist. containing my Catalogue of Plants, and which I directed a copy to be sent to you, but it does not seem to be out yet, — nor shall I look for it any more until it comes to hand. ——— The Panicums in my last package of plants which I left with you are, the first 12 N^os from S. Carolina & Ga — 13 — 19 inclusive from Wilmington N.C. & 20 — 26 from the North. I mention this that you may not give wrong localities to any species, as I found you had done by my former package, which you will be able however to rectify by means of my catalogue when you get it.

TORREY BOTANICAL CLUB CORRESPONDENCE HERBARIUM COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

You have several times expresed a wish that I would furnish you with some living plants and promised to give me a list of desiderata. I have made a small collection for you which I hope will be acceptable. The box is not large, as I did not know how to meet your wishes exactly, though it would have been as easy to collect 500 roots as 50. The upper stratum consists of Sarraceas - but you will find with them Liatris odoratissima, Sarracenia flava, Andromeda nitida, Aristida stricta, Ly? & some others which I did not recognise. In the lower stratum you will find Tipularia. The soil which that prefers will not hold together, so that you will probably find the roots all loose. The weather has been so excessively cold (mercury at 0!) that all delicate plants have been endangered. How those I have sent you are affected I know not - but I think they are not essentially injured.

The box of plants has been shipped on board Schr "Daniel M. Smith" master, which will sail in at Centre wharf, New York.

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Dr Torrey
New York.
N. Y.

If you have occasion to write to me for plants, and I shall be very happy to hear from you upon that subject as well as any & every other, I hope you will do it soon, as I and my collection will be soon divorced. What I can spare of dried plants, or what I can get, if living ones I will send to you with pleasure. Several new plants unknown to you, which you returned to me, I will send back to deposit with you, if you desire them; I am not yet prepared to say that I will give them.

Those plants from my first package which you have not yet determined, I shall be glad to have you take a list of, as fast as you ascertain them, so that you can finally communicate them to me. - Pay my respects to Dr. Gray & Mr Clark - and believe me very truly your friend & servt

M. Ashley Curtis.

Rec'd Nov. 4th. by Mr. Torrey with a parcel of plants

and

And. Nov. 8th

Lincolnton (N. C.) Oct. 24th 1835.

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Dear Sir.

An opportunity just offering to send you half a dozen plants, I gladly seize upon it to put into your hands a few which I presume will be acceptable. The resolution to send them was formed two days ago in Charlotte, & to day when I reached this place I found a letter from you. I have been a long time hoping to hear from you, but I supposed you had more important engagements to occupy your time & attention. I expected to receive a copy of the Annals of your Lyceum, containing Gray's Rhynchospora, long ere this, but have been thus far disappointed. Is it not yet out? I have anticipated a valuable paper.

I have been very much disappointed in regard to my catalogue. I was promised numerous extra copies by a member of the Society with whom I had my transactions. But nothing was ever sent to me, and I had to procure a single one through my Father. On the strength of that promise I engaged to supply yourself, Gray, Darlington & Short, but I am now under the mortification of informing them that I cannot furnish them.

I can only direct you now to the publishers, Hillard & Gray. It would give me much pleasure to supply you, if I had more than one copy, or if I had any interest in the Society, but I am not a member, and have no means of getting at them. — My residence at Wilmington last Spring afforded me an opportunity of enlarging the catalogue, and I sent a list of new discoveries, but they were not attended to. Even the corrections which I sent on from N. York, while I was with you, withdrawing several plants was but partially attended to, and there remain Rhynchospora trifloria (oligantha, Gray) & Juncus megacephalus much to my chagrin. The first I gave up to Gray, my name being preoccupied; & the latter I wished to withdraw at his suggestion. Though I cannot now make it agree with Muhl.'s descript. of J. echinatus. Is it not the true J. polycephalus, Mx.?

My Silphium mudicaule is evidently a var: of S. terebinthinaceum, as I have been comparing them all summer. They differ in no point but the leaves, & the outlines of both are the same. It is however a distinct, permanent, variety, & may perhaps be called var: sinuata. — Stellaria elongata, I have proved an Arenaria, by finding it with entire petals. I think it now, to be A. diffusa, Ell. — Remarks on my Ophioniza Broomii have been abused — "but belonging" should be nor belonging, and the last sentence I intended to have erased. Having seen Swartz fig. I had no doubt about it. It did not occur to me

at the time to see if it had been preoccupied, being under the impression that all had been in error about it. It is a wonder to me that the genus has been so long mistaken. —— I wish you to return me a correct list of the plants I send you. One or two of them, you will notice are to be returned. (†) — I have examined plants very hastily this summer. & some hardly at all. I have a quantity more for you, but I cannot send them by the present opportunity. I have also a parcel in Wilmington which I will furnish you some from. I shall not return there probably, before Spring, but if you are anxious to recieve what I have by me, of my Summer collection, I will send them on to be forwarded to you. Otherwise I will retain them until Spring, & forward all at once. I wish you would give me a list of species that you have not got, as I should take more pleasure in furnishing one new one than a dozen old ones, & can be looking out for them. I have had an extensive range this season for herborizing, but I commenced late, and have not collected largely. If I spend another season in this section I hope I shall do better. At any rate I can furnish you a few that you will be very glad to get. Any contributions which I can make towards the completion of your great work I will very freely give. My facilities for collecting are greater at present than before, though my frequent rides do not always conduct through the most favored spots. My portfolio is always with me, & when I see a plant it is no trouble to step from my waggon to collect it. I have not preserved well this season — worse than ever.

TORREY COLLECTION OF HERBARIUM COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

My missionary field includes Lincoln & Mecklenburg Cos. with the mountainous Cos of Burke & Wilkes. Whether I shall be stationed here another season I know not, but probably I shall. Our church is feeble in this section & I hope to revive its interest somewhat. In Charlotte we are about to build a church. — Do use your influence against the abolition question, for a more mistaken movement was never attempted than that of effecting immediate emancipation. Disunion & bloodshed will inevitably follow it. Very truly. M.A. Curtis

Rev. John Torrey
New York.

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

P.S. The names on my labels are mostly catch-words for reference, as I have yet had no time for a careful examination of them.

You did not tell me if you had got Barrow's plants, but I infer that you have not. He is not much of a Botanist, & appears to be quite an unsettled character.

Let me hear from you as often as you can spend your time no better. Call upon me for whatever you want, and I will gladly furnish anything in my power. Have you got your Solidagos & Asters from Europe yet?

Recd Dec 26

Ansd Feby. 11th

Wilmington Dec. 11th 1835

Dr. John Torrey.

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Dear Sir,

When I sent you a small package of plants last month by Mr Derry, I had no expectation of visiting Wilmington until April. But the sickness of my wife has brought me here, our physician in Charlotte having recommended the journey as of probable service in her recovery. She has nearly recovered, and is apparently wanting only in strength.

When I concluded to take the journey I packed up a parcel of plants for you, which I hope will not be unacceptable. I have not had much time for examining plants the past season, though I had such favorable opportunities for collecting. I therefore send them to you in many cases undetermined; & where I have given names from hurried examination they may be frequently wrong. I have marked all of them so that you can inform me, when you have ascertained them, what they are.

The localities I have intended to mark at the bottom of the label. A few have been added from Wilmington, which are signified by W.

The others are from Mecklenberg, Lincoln, & Burke, counties, indicated, I believe, by their respective initials. —— —— I have put up some cryptogamiae, of which I collected a few. My study of these orders has been so limited that I am afraid to give names where I thought I knew the plants. I shall be particularly obliged to you for the result of your examination of them.

A bundle of Fungi & Lichens which I throw in, you may burn up or preserve, as you choose. It consists of trash for aught I know, and may contain a treasure too, for anything I know to the contrary. I commenced an examination of them last Spring, but I was so deficient in the proper helps that I gave it up.

If I have sent you any interesting Mosses, I wish you would signify it to stimulate me to further collection.

The mountains of this State must I think afford a rich treat to the Botanist, but I have as yet only attained the outer spurs. I hope, in the course of another season, to get more among them. Indeed, I do not believe that any State in the Union is richer in Nat. Hist. than this. — Every body knows Michaux & Fraser up in the mountains. And it is quite amusing to witness their attempts to designate plants by words which they have casually picked

of from Botanists. "This is the Magnolia, & that is the acuminata", says a man, as he points out two trees of the Magnolia genus, & it is hard beating them out of their ignorance.

Dec 19th — I have sent the plants to N.Y by Sch.r Olive, which sailed on the 17th inst. I could not send you notice until this day, as the mail has not since left here for the North. You can find the box of plants by enquiring of John Ogden, 169 (?) South Street, to whom the rebel is consigned.

Please to let me hear from you as soon as convenient, that I may know whether you have recieved the box. Direct your letters to Charlotte, N. C. —

My respects to Dr Gray, if he is yet with you; & accept for yourself an assurance of the highest regard of

your friend & servt.

M. A. Curtis.

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

P. S. Dr. McRee handed me a specimen of Ludwigia yesterday, which I can refer to nothing but L. uniflora, Jacq. I enclose you two specimens sine fl. — The petals are much longer than the calyx. The pencil sketch will give you some idea of it. The plant is 2 3-4 inches long, radi-cant, 1-flowered, flowers ter-minal; — Dr. McR. found it near

Fayetteville in this State, growing in the grass in damp places. - In habit, it most resembles S. pedunculosa; in structure it approaches S. juncaeoides. -- Let me know what you make of it.

Dr. John Torrey
New York
N. Y.

Rec'd Feby 24th
Ans'd March 14th

Charlotte Feb 3, 1836.

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Dear Sir,

A private opportunity offering, I take advantage of it to acknowledge your late favors & the high gratification they afforded. The one by mail, & that by Mr Perry, & also one previous to these, via Wilmington, are at hand. — While at Wilmington I addressed you a letter giving information of a box of plants which I then sent to you. I hope they have reached you ere this in good condition.

I returned to this place on Jan. 9th, & have just returned from Lincolnton, where I preached last Sabbath. While there I had an opportunity of examining my notes on plants, & I send you my remarks upon Carex (an), which you desire to know more about. I had not been able to make it out.

Carex ——— (a) Stig: 2.— (b) Spikes distinct.— (c) Terminal spike androg: the others fem: or partly androg: Allied to C. acuta & crinita. ——— Spicis terminalibus, pedunculatis, remotiusculis; terminali longè bracteati, cylindracei, summitantibus; Infimus pedunculus brevi-vaginatus; Capsula ovata, glabra, brevi-rostrata, ore integro; Squamis oblongis, cuspide longa serrata terminati et fructum superantibus:

Obs. Stem 18 inches high, slender, acutely trigonous, smooth to the spikes; Leaves shorter than the stem, sheathing its base, smooth except on the margin towards the summit; Sheaths loose; Terminal spike sterile at the base & summit; fertile spikes with a few barren flowers at the summit; Scales of the fruit with a long subulate point, which is about a third longer than the fruit at the base of the spike, but diminishing towards the summit where they about equal to the fruit. Fl. May. Hab. wet places, &c.

I collected this plant on my way hither last spring, & not examining it at the spot, I collected but three specimens. One you have; a second I enclose for Dewey, which I will thank you to forward to him after you have first characterized it. The remaining specimen has but one bottle spike. — I could not bring the plant to any description, but I did not know but you had had it from some quarter & described it. Indeed I am afraid to pronounce any thing new, for fear it has already got into some publication to which I have not access, & therefore I send them to you to make what you can of them. — I am very glad that the small package by Mr Terry afforded you any interest; I hope the larger one by Nefel will give you still more satisfaction. I am very happy to help you on in your work by any contribution in my power. When I commenced sending you plants, it was not with any expectation of remuneration farther than the information which you could give me upon them. But as you have proposed sending me some plants, I shall not decline them, as I am anxious to make any accession to my collection. But if by sending plants to me, you abridge your means of making other more important & valuable exchanges, I shall be unwilling to tax you. I will let you know what I should like to have in another letter hereafter, so that you may not send what I have already.

I have not seen Mr Terry, nor heard of him, since his return. When the season for herborizing breaks in, I shall look after him & spur him on to zealous efforts for you. Did you hand him a copy of Gray's Rhynchosporæ? I have heard nothing of it, & am anxious to see it.

I am desirous of completing my Wilmington catalogue as soon as may be, & I wish that you would send on to me your reference of those species, which you have not yet communicated, as fast as you determine them. As most of those remaining to be published depend upon your information, I do not know but I shall have to issue the paper in your name. I made

several new accessions last spring at Wilmington, & my catalogue will after all be incomplete.

Dr. Curtis has not the art of finding time for anything, and I cannot look to him for carrying it on, though he is fully qualified. If he would only collect diligently, I could then help him out. I found [illegible] a fine vestige of new hints around his house last month which had not been noticed by him. —— —— I have lately entered into a correspondence with Prof. Mitchell of our University, who seems disposed to enter cordially into a plan of cooperation in our pursuits after interesting subjects of Nat. Hist. — His attention has lattely been given to geology & its coordinate studies, & thinks himself rather rusty in botany. My plan has been to unite the efforts of Naturalists in this State as a means of incitement to greater efforts & of preservation of their observation & discoveries. The trouble is, that with the exception of Mitchell, there is no decent Naturalist in the State that I know of. Croom & Loomis were incipient Botanists, but they are both gone. Ashe is going to do something when he gets his affairs well arranged & settled. Our only course therefore is to do pretty much all ourselves, or turn to & make Naturalists out of new material if we can find any. — I find in a file Newspaper published in this place a Flora Lincolnensis, by a Hunter of Lincoln County. It is a mere catalogue, very incomplete, & includes only two grapes. I should judge there were about 3-400 species in all. I shall try to get hold of him in a few weeks. He had the misfortune to lose his house & most of his furniture by fire a week or two since, so that I presume his plants are consumed, & I am informed that he used to preserve them.

I am anxious to know the fate of my late box of plants which I sent you from Wilmington. I had hoped I should have some opportunity to examine my plants this winter but I know not if I shall. I have three stations to procure

at, & little time will be left for me to spend with my plants.

In Charlotte where I preach one Sunday afternoon appears to be advancing, but the prospect in Lincoln is anything but promising. Last Sabbath afternoon I preached there to but four! In all this section of country there appears to be but little more than a nominal religion at present, & the spiritual good of preaching & public worship is hardly visible in any denomination. Thus far I have only endeavored to make christians, and not Episcopalians, but the result of my efforts is known only to him who searcheth the heart.

Rev. John Torrey
New-York or Princeton
N. Jersey

NEW YORK FEB 13

Tell me what you conclude upon this head.

Let me hear from you, my dear sir, as often as you can conveniently write, and believe

most truly yours,

M. A. Curtis.

CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Rec'd May 6th

Wilmington N.C. Apl. 16th 1836

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

My Dear Sir.

The day before I left Lincoln I rec'd. your kind letter in answer to my last. I should say, last but one, as I trust you have rec'd a letter from me since that to which yours was a reply. I hold myself under much obligation to you for the frequency of your correspondence. It is a pleasure & privilege which I had not originally expected, but which I shall be loath to enjoy a continuance of.

Hooker has just come down upon me for plants. His letter was superscribed "Moses C. Curtis, esq. M.C." If he had known I was a Clergyman, he might have put the climax to the address by prefixing a Rev. I shall be very happy to supply him with any thing in my power to contribute, but I have hardly a dozen plants to spare from the list which he has drawn from my catalogue. And then again, I do not want exotics, for if I once commence upon them I shall find no stopping place. All I wish to procure is N. American plants, which possibly he cannot supply. If, however, you would like his plants, & will yourself furnish me with specimens from our own county, we can perhaps make an arrangement for exchanging. Otherwise I shall have to give him whatever I can spare. Let me hear from you upon this.

I enclose in this letter fifty dollars ($50.) with which I solicit the favor of your purchasing for me the following works. Trinius. Dict. Gram. ——— de Candolle Prod. all the vols. issued. Esenbach (?) Agrostis —— Ann. N. Y. Lyc – 3 vols ——— and the work on Astereae which you recommended. According to the estimate which you gave me, they will amount to 33 or 34 dollars. Whatever remains after the purchase, I will hereafter make some disposition of; at present I will let it remain. If you can order these works for me, & when you have got them all together, will send them to me. I shall feel myself under great obligation.

Darlington writes me that you are laughing at his new botanical system. His plan occured to me long since as feasible, though having some difficulties. I must confess, that I have not become hostile to the Linnean system for beginners, although the sexual arrangement can hardly be called a science. But I have not time to talk of this, and not acquainted enough with the Natural system to give good judgment.

I have found a sort of a botanist in Lincoln Co.y who seems to have a fine taste for Nat. science, and is disposed to enter more vigorously upon it, if he can have the cooperation of others. If you are inclined to make an exchange with him, he will prepare himself to meet the favor. His address is – Dr. Cyrus L. Hunter, Huntersville, Lincoln Co.y, N. C. – You can write to him & address me upon the subject, as best suits you.

HORSLEY, C.H. CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

I have not time to write farther at present, but believe me, as ever, very truly your friend.

W. A. Curtis.

P. S. — I send you herewith a little package of plants from the Western Counties.

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

15
3
7.50
3.50
2
3

Prof. John Torrey

New York

N. Y.

Wilmington May 18th 1836.

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
REPOSITORY
COLUMBIA UNIV

My Dear Sir.

Three or four days since I found in a pile of pamphlets at my Father in law's Gray's Monograph of Rhynchospora. How it came there nobody knows — but I judge that it came to this place in my absence, was laid aside for me and forgotten. You may judge of my surprise and pleasure at this unexpected discovery. It enabled me to look over my Rhynchosporas and settle them all with one exception. The R. microcarpa I have not yet fully proved. I also found among my specimens the R. Baldwinii, & R. fascicularis. The latter is the plant which I mentioned in a letter to you last winter as being, I thought, the R. cymosa of Ell. I think the two plants very clear, though I have but a single specimen of each. I allude to there, that the locality may be known.

I discover some verbal errors in the Monograph, which, however, Dr Gray can very easily remedy by reading it carefully over. — Under R. miliacea, Western is given in connexion with my name. I sent you this plant from Wilmington. (Rhynchospora inexpansa grows here, the most abundant of all the species.) — Figures 18 & 19 on the plate seem to be transposed, & should change places.

I think you informed me that the R. miliacea grew at the North, but this State is the most northern point mentioned by Gray. Here it flowers July-Aug.

R. inexpansa invariably springs up by the side of ditches which are cut through our damp pine woods. Fl. July-Sept. & the fruit remains till the next Spring.

R. plumosa I have always found in damp pine woods. Flowers June-July? —

R. Elliottii flowers in June at this place. I think that cinnamon colored better describes the color of the glumes than R. pycnocarpa flowers Aug-Sept. {chestnut col?.

R. ciliata inhabits damp Savannahs.

R. Baldwinii — My specimens are hexandrous; and the bristles are 10? —

R. oligantha inhabits Savannahs — Fl. June-July.

R. alba — Fl. May-June, at this place.

These observations may be of no service to Dr. Gray, but I thought I would venture them.

I sent you a plant from this locality once under the name of Cyperus (b), which you returned as Mariscus cylindricus, Ell, but which I thought was C. tetragonus, Ell, or else an undescribed plant. It is certainly no Mariscus, but a genuine Cyperus. You retained a head of it, and I am very anxious to know what you make of it. That you may see what I mean, I give you my description of it.

"Stem 1 ft. high, acutely 3 ang?- smooth, naked; Involv: 5-6 leaved, mostly longer than the umbel, smooth except on the margin, keeled, tapering from the base to a long filiform point; Partial Involv. 0; Umbel 8-10 rayed, simple,

rays unequal, somewhat recurved, slender, smooth, ter=
minated by a loose subcylindrical spike of from 20-35
spikelets; Spikelets deflected, 3-5 flowered; Glumes
short, mucronate, nerved. decurrent on the rachis, yel=
lowish with a green keel; Calyx 2 valved, lower valve
lanceolate or subulate, the upper ovate, obtuse; Stam=
ens 3; Style 3 parted; Seed oblong, 3 angled.

HERBARIUM
UNIVERSITY

I lately sent you by a passenger in a vessel
a letter enclosing $50. with directions for its use.
If you can comply with my request in regard to
the purchases so that I can get the books this
Fall, I shall be very greatly obliged. Accompa=
nying the letter was a small package of plants,
mostly Mosses.

On a late visit to Newbern I met with Broom,
who gave me several interesting plants from
Florida. He had a parcel for you. I am sorry that
he has not more energy of character, for he cannot
bear the drudgery of collecting & preserving plants.
What do you make of his Taxus-like plant; &
what of the Smilaceae? plant? —
Is not Arenaria glabra, of Ell, the A. patula Mx?

I have been delayed in my return to the
upper country by the loss of my horse, & prevented from
going through Salem as I intended. I expect to
reach here on the 23d inst. for my former field of
labor. Please to address me when you write
at Charlotte. I mean if possible to find
the Carex Fraseri this Spring. I have learned
the locality from Hooker.

I cannot now tell what time I shall have for herborizing this season, but as my duty will take me regularly into the mountainous district I hope I shall have better opportunity than last year for investigating the Alpine species. I shall always take pleasure in collecting for you. All my difficult and rare species go to you first. I shall try to furnish you a good collection next autumn.

Accompanying the Monograph was a catalogue of N. Haven plants. Can't tell me how I came by it. It was very acceptable.

I have just rec'd a box of beautiful specimens from Short. They have been lying in Phil'a a year!

HARVARD UNIVERSITY. HERBARIUM CORRESPONDENCE

N.B. I should be very glad to receive the sheets of your Carex, that you have not yet sent, & may be able to complete my catalogue.

Dr. John Torrey
New York
N. Y.

I forgot to mention under R. miliacea, that I have a specimen, (collected late in the season when the flowers had dropped from the base of the spikelets,) which, judging from the rachis, must have had 50–60 glumes, & the spikes must have been cylindrical. Filaments 2. Bristles 0. — This plant I once sent to you under the name of Scirpus (h); you returned it undetermined. I have carefully compared it with R. miliacea, & can find no differences, except the above mentioned.

Rec'd July 1st

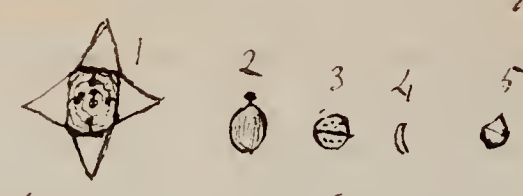
Lincolnton June 15th 1856.

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Dear Sir,

I am just recovering from a slight ailing which has detained me here some days. Unfit for any labor, I thought I would trouble you with a letter, which I do not call labor, but pleasure. I am the man disposed to trouble you because I have lately found a plant which I cannot refer to any genus in our Floras. It is a submersed aquatic, resembling a Mosses - has 4 hypogynous(?) Stamens, & a capitate subsessile Stigma. Calyx 4 toothed; Petals none; Capsule in the bottom of the Calyx, ovate, 2 celled, with a central columella; Seeds 6-10, oblong, curved, standing erect in the capsule, and seem to be surrounded by a greenish fleshy matter. The flowers are very minute, & I may not be strictly accurate in the particulars. I send you a fragment that you may examine for yourself. I examined it but once in a fresh state. The following are rough sketches.

Stam: 2 lobed. Stig: papillose }



1. Calyx spread open, shewing capsule, stamens & style
2. Capsule & Style. 3. Transverse section of Capsule.
4. Seed. 5. Form of the flower nearly; but two or three times magnified.

I shall try to get some more fresh specimens and take a more accurate view of the flowers. It may be that you are familiar with the plant. If so, do tell me what it is, for I have made an unsuccessful but diligent search in all my books.

I will add a description of an Andropogon which I think of offering as new, though I am sorry that I cannot now send it for your inspection. I have but a single specimen of it, which I collected in a place overflowed by the tide on our sea coast.

Stem 2-3 ft. high, smooth, having long erect silvery hairs beneath the upper joints, as also beneath the joints of the branches. Leaves linear slightly scabrous; Sheaths glabrous, slightly hairy at the throat; Upper sheaths swelling, containing several branches, crowded towards the top of the stem; Spikes 4 parted, on long exsert pedunckes; Calyx valves subequal, angles minutely ciliate; Corol, outer valve nearly as long as the calyx; Awn of the inner valve 4-5 times longer than the Cal: somewhat contorted at base; Pedicel of the neutral floret, with its abortive valve at the summit, about twice the length of the calyx, having long somewhat crowded silvery hairs; Stamen 1.

Fl. Aug. —— —— In its general aspect much resembling A. argenteus for which it might readily be grafted by, but differs from it in its swelling sheaths, smaller flowers, 4 parted spikes, & single stamen. From A. tetrastachyus it departs in its larger flowers, long pedunckes, stronger & more hairy rachis, swelling sheaths, contorted awn, & smoother calyx.

What think you of the character, or can you not determine without a specimen? In its flowers it approaches nearer to A. tetrastachyus. This plant has been in my herb. 3 or 4 yrs, but has been overlooked thus far. I will try to show it to you some time or other.

Among the plants which I first

sent you are Panicum (v) & P. (h), but I cannot now tell whether you retained them or not. The latter is P. viscidum, sine dubio; the former I am pretty confident is P. scabriusculum, Ell. — I am now cherishing the hope of seeing Elliott's Herbarium before the season closes. Young Elliott, who now has it, is Prof. Theol. in Columbia College S.C., & as I shall have to visit Columbia, if he has it with him I shall see it. I have lately written him to ascertain. I should like very much ~~like~~ to stand behind you & Gray while you were examining this Herbarium. I may be disappointed in my hope of seeing it, as perhaps Elliott has not yet removed it from Beaufort. If I am gratified, you shall hear more about it.

I am now expecting to reside in the mountains this summer. If so, I hope to collect plants hugely. I may be disappointed in this however, for I may be called to another field. I shall know in a few weeks.

I recieved a sheet of your Cyperaceae the other day, & am only the more greedy for more. Do send me the sheets as fast as issued.

I enclose a small Rhynchospora which I take to be R. rariflora, but the fruit is not mature. You can tell it from its habit perhaps, while I have no specimens to compare it with. I collected in lower Carolina. If I prove correct in this, then I shall have collected 21 species of the genus in this State. Can you get me R. Torreyana, capillacea, & macrostachya? What thinks Dr. Gray of an exchange with me? I should like it much.

Address me at Lower Creek, Burke Co?, N. C.

Very truly yours. M. A. Curtis.

HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

2 Oct 1865

Prof. John Torrey
New York
N. Y.

Lower Creek, Burke Co N. C
Sept. 6th 1836.

Rec'd Sept. 24th
Ans'd Oct 19th

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

My dear Sir,

Your letter of July 25th I rec'd two days since, & I was very glad to hear from you again, & to learn that my letters had all reached you & my collections safe. I returned two days since from a three weeks tour to the mountains. I ascended several of our highest summits & collected plants as hastily as my circumstances would permit. It was not undertaken as a botanizing expedition, though I prepared myself for it as well as I could. I was called upon by our Bishop to accompany him to a distant point, & on our way visited the most prominent mountains in the State. It was frequently a source of regret that my journey was so rapid, that I could not myself push forward by the company in localities that promised a rich harvest of plants. At any rate I got about 120 or so species that are new to me, I should judge. I have over a hundred species in all. I began to collect most hastily, but I found after my first effort that I could not collect many duplicates, & had to throw many away to make room for other species. I was unfortunately circumstanced also for preserving them, & they are most of them in a miserable plight. I ought however to rejoice in the

opportunity which was thus unexpectedly given me of visiting some of the richest scenery in the world & of collecting even the few plants which I have got. The few duplicates in my profession I shall dispose of cautiously. Where you do not possess a specimen of my ~~species~~ species I will supply you before any man in the world, but if you have the plant in your herbarium I shall withhold it from you. I have only run hurriedly over them, & have not fairly determined them all. The following are at your service, provided you have no specimens. Dipsyllea cymosa - Pinus pungens - Chelone lyoni - Hamiltonia oleifera - Viburnum nitidum ?- Genn radiatum - Cacalia reniformis - Houstonia serpyllifolia - Thalictrum ranunculinum. I have others to send you at any rate for your better determination, & many for your profession, which it is unnecessary to specify.

Previous to this journey, I took a tour in the mountains of one week by myself, & collected a few new plants, & among them what I call a new species of Saxifraga. Calyx more than half superior - flowers pentandrous - Caps. two beaked, & opening between the beaks - Plant caulescent & leafy. I am not satisfied about the genus, & shall examine further by and bye, but I think it is no Heuchera. I will send you a specimen as soon as I can get a package to you, which I think will not be before Spring.

The little aquatic, which I enclosed in a letter to you, I procured fresh specimens of, the day after I sent it, & gave it a new examination. I now refer it to the Order Salicariae, & think it an Ammania, some species of which have the calyx 4 toothed. I erred in stating to you that the Stamens were hypogynous; they are inserted on the calyx a little below the segments. Can you find any distinctive characters besides the 4 toothed calyx, by which it might constitute a new genus? I think I shall call it A. hypobrychia for the present. By the way, I want you to reserve for me all the new N. Carolina plants which I send you, that I may concoct an original paper from them. You have in your profession two veratrums, one Andropogon (allied to your A. glaucum) a doubtful Juhnia, & a doubtful Lobelia, & perhaps others which I cannot now recal, which I should like to describe if you have no objection. The vanity of discovery & authorship is fastening upon me.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

The Scirpus or Rhynchospora about which you write, I cannot now send to you as my specimen is in Wilmington & I do not expect to see it before Spring. I compared it most diligently with a true specimen of R. ~~[illegible]~~ sharsa! & could not find a shade of difference in the stem, leaves, & panicle. The description of it which I have by me is thus -

Spikelets cylindric-ovate, sessile & pedunculed, with from 40-60 glumes, which drop from the rachis as the seeds ripen; Glumes ovate-lanceolate, acute; Stamens 2.

style 2 cleft half way; $\frac{1}{3}$ longer than the glumes; seed round oval, small, rugose, margined, with a short conic tubercle. Bristles 0. Hab. swamps. Fl. Sept. Oct. The specimen is rather old, & you sent it back as "too old" to determine, though its characters seem to be clear enough. I once thought of calling it Scirpus fistulosus, the stem being hollow, until I concluded it might be a var: of R. glauca, & there it has rested these two years.

L. S.

Dr Torrey
New York
N. Y.

Capsules close
Sept 7 1836
Pat. Lincoln

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

With the aquatic plant I enclosed in my letter a specimen of Rhynchospora which have said nothing of. What is it? I also sent you a Rhynchospora last winter or Spring which seems to me allied to R. paniculatus. What do you call it? I collected it in Lincoln Co N. C. — What can I purchase Drummond's Musci Americani for? Is it worth the money? — yours truly
W. D. Curtis.

† Dorcaf - 8.5.

Agrostis.
stricta
canina
sobolifera
tenuiflora
compressa
virginica
borgiifolia
spicaventi.
Arundo
canadensis
brevipilis
Avena (all.)
† Alchemilla.
Aira
aristulata
pumila
Arrhenatherum
† avenaceum
Ammania
ramosior
Azalea
procumbens
calendulacea
arborescens
hispida
nitida
canescens
Atriplex
† halimus
laciniata
† hortensis
hastata.
Angelica
lucida.
Allium
triflorum.
Alisma
natans.
Acer
dasycarpum
† barbatum
saccharinum
nigrum.
Andromeda
hypnoides
polifolia
Alnaria
peplaides
fasciculata
Alonia
sanguinea
Ascyrum
hypericoides
Astragene.
Anemone
aconitifolia
dichotoma
multifida
lanciifolia
Antirrhinum
elatine
Arabis
sagittata
alpina
reptans
stricta.
Althaea
officinalis
Arrhoheopa
sarmentosa.
Astragalus
secundus
caroliniana
alpinus.
Aeschynomene
Aster (all.)

Artemisia
(all but canadensis)
Arnica
doronicum
plantaginea.
Anthemis
arvensis
Achillea
† ptarmica
Asclepias
amoena
† purpurascens
pauciflora
Acerates
Apocynum
hypericifolium
Asarum
virginicum
Alnus (all
but serrulata.)
Amaranthus
(all but spinosus)
Ambrosia (all
but trif. & elatior.)
Arum (all but
triphyllum)
Aenida
† inodora
Acrostichum.
Aspidium.
Azolla.
Asplenium
montanum.

Bartsia.
Blitum.
Bromus (all
but secalinus.)
Bunias
maritima.
Barbarea.
Blechnum.
Boltonia
asteroides
Bidens
tripartita
Torreyii.
Boehmeria
cylindriflora
Betula
papyracea
glandulosa
nana.
Botrychium
dissectum
simplex.

Callitriche
(all but verna.)
Cryptotaenia
Cypsis
Cyperus
dentatus
tenuis
odoratus
flavicomus
articulatus
Bellingeroides
minimus
Ceratochloa
unioloides
Cornus
sanguinea.

Campanula
rotundifolia
americana
Ceanothus
herbaceus
Chenopodium
glaucum
murale
hybridum
bonushenricus
Celtis
crassifolia
Cnidium.
Cerastium.
Cleome
dodecandra
Conostylis.
Convallaria
ciliata
bracteata
racemosa
tuberosa
latifolia
canaliculata
hirta.
Chrysosplenium
alternifolium
Cassia
fasciculata
Cucubalus
niveus
Crataegus
pyrifolia
cordata
glandulosa
punctata
flava.
Calycanthus
laevigatus
Cistus
corymbosus
Caltha
integerrima
palustris
Camelina
Cardamine
rotundifolia
teres
pratensis
hirsuta.
Corydalis
formosa
Cnicus
discolor
virginianus
glutinosus
glaber.
Carduus.
Cineraria.
Chrysocoma.
Coreopsis
rosea
aspera.
Corallorhiza
hiemalis.
Cypripedium
candidum
parviflorum
arietinum.
Caulinia.
Chara.
Ceratophyllum.
Canya
porcina.

Carex
wormskioldiana
sterilis
retroflexa
disperma
conoidea
setacea
paniculata
bicolor
deweyi
tenella
siccata
novaeangliae
superalis
ovata
aquatilis
wildenowii
stricta
atrata
leucoglochin
[illegible]
fuliginosa
[illegible]
- davisii, Torr
ustulata
collecta
castanea
sylvatica
pilifera
washingtonia
umbellata
miliaris
oakesii
hitchcockii
emmonsii
lurida
oligosperma.
chordorhiza
livida
blepharophora.
aristata
Digitaria
glabra
Diodia.
Dryas.
Dodecatheon
integrifolium
Diapensia
lapponica
Delphinium
azureum
Draba
nivalis
incana
glabella
alpina
arabisans
hirta.
Dioscorea
quaternata
Dalibarda.
Dracocephalum parviflorum

Eriophorum
alpinum
Elymus striatus
Erigeron.
Erythronium
bractiatum
Epilobium molle,
alpinum
latifolium.
Erysimum
nasturtium
palustre
vulgare.
Eriocaulon
flavidulum

FORMER CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Eupatorium
hyssopifolium
truncatum
melissaeoides
lanceolatum
aromaticum
altissimum
maculatum
coelestinum
punctatum
ovatum
Erigeron
alpinum
strigosum
heterophyllum
hyssopifolium
Euphorbia
peplus
mercurialina
heloscopia
pilosa
dentata
portulacoides
Eupatorium
Equisetum
hyemale
limosum
uliginosum
palustre
tororeanum.

Festuca
clandestina
rubra
poaeoides
Frasera
Fragaria
canadensis
Fraxinus
juglandifolia
epiptera
caroliniana
Fagus
ferruginea

Galium
trachiatum
obtusum
micranthum
bermudianum
Gentiana
pneumonanthis
linearis
acuta
lutea
Geum
peckii
geniculatum.
Glaucium
Geranium
pusillum
columbinum
Gnaphalium
decurrens
americanum
alpinum
Goodyera repens.
Gonolobus
obliquus.

Hippuris.
Hemianthus.
Hierochloa.
Holosteum.
Hydrocotyle
ranunculaides
lineata
Helonias
latifolia
Hypopythys
europaea.
Hydrangea
rivea.
Hedeoma glabra.
Hypericum
kalmianum
pyramidatum
aceroides
galioides
adpressum.
Hesperis.
Hippophae.
Hibiscus
palustris
militaris
Hedysarum
canescens
humifusum
strictum
glutinosum
alpinum
Hieracium
virgatum
fasciculatum
macrophyllum.
Helianthus - (all but rubens, divaric: angust: & altissimus.)
Habenaria
integra
fuscescens
incisa
bifa
grandiflora.
Hymenophyllum.

Iris lacustris.
Ilex canadensis.
Ipomaea lacunosa.
Isoetes.

Juncus acutus
nodosus
stygius
squarrosus
trifidus
bufonius
subverticillatus
militaris.
Juniperus sabina.

Kyllingia monocephl.
Kalmia glauca.
Krigia amplexican.

Lindernia
dilatata,
monticola.
Lycopus uniflorus
obtusifolius.
Lechea thymifolia
racemulosa
Ludwigia pilosa.
Lithospermum - (all but arvense.)
Lysimachia
revoluta.
Lobelia dortmanna.
Lonicera flava
grata.
Ligusticum
actaeifolium.
Lilium superbum
pennsylvan.
Luzula - (all but campestre)
Ledum palustre.
Lythrum salicaria.
Lamium purpureum.
Limosella.
Lathyrus myrtifolius
Lespedeza stuvei.
divergens,
repens.
Leontodon
palustre.
Lactuca hirsuta
integrifolia
Liatris scabiosa
pilosa,
cylindracea.
Listera convallaris:
Lemna - (all but minor.)
Lycopodium
caroliniannm
sabinaefolium
dendroideum
obscurum
annotinum
inundatum
selaginoides
apodum
selago.
Lycopsis arvensis.

Monarda
fistulosa
clinopodia
rugosa
Milium effusum
amphicarpon.
Myosurus.
Melanthium
glaucum.
Menziesia.
Mentha canadensis.
Malva americana.
Malaxis longifolia.
Myriophyllum
capillaceum
ambiguum
tenellum.
Myrica pennsylvan.
Microstylis brachystoda, g.

Narthecium.
Nuphar kalmiana.
Nymphaea
odor: v. rosea.
Nelumbium.
Najas.
Neottia gracilis.

Ornus.
Onasmodium
~~virginianum~~ molle.
Oenanthe
rigidus.
Oenothera
parviflora
grandiflora
muricata
incana
hybrida
chrysantha
pusilla.
Oxycoccus
vulgaris.
Origanum
vulgare
Orchis - (all but spect: & hyperb:)
Onoclea
obtusiloba.
Osmunda
claytoniana
Ophioglossum.

Polygonum
racemosum.
Phleum alpinum.
Poa dentata
fasciculata
brevifolia
serotina
nemoralis
elongata.
Panicum
pedunculatum
scoparium
macrocarpon.
pubescens
involutum
agrostoides
longifolium
xanthophysum
nodiflorum
ciliatum
paniciflorum.
Pennisetum
viride
germanicum.
Plantago
cordata
media
cucullata.
Potamogeton
heterophyllum
diversifolium
perfoliatum
pectinatum
lucens.
Phacelia
parviflora.
Phlox paniculata
divaricata.
Physalis.
Ptelospora.
Prinos
laevigatus
ambiguus.
Polygonum
lapathifolium
mite,
viviparum
barbatum
fluitans
ciliinode.
Pyrola
asarifolia.

Prunus mollis
pygmaea
pubescens
maritima
pumila
depressa
rusqchamaa
cerasifera
Pyrus angustifolia
Potentilla
canadensis
simplex
recta
pennsylvan:
Pycnanthemum
verticillatum
Pedicularis
gladiata
Polygala
uniflora
purpurea
verticillata
ambigua
fastigiata
brevifolia
Prenanthes
cordata
rubicunda
racemosa.
Parietaria.
Phyllanthus.
Pinus rubra,
alba
inops
resinosa
banksiana
pendula.
Polypodium
connectile
Pteris caudata.

Quercus
heterophylla
triloba
tinctoria
discolor
ambigua
rubra
macrocarpa
oliviformis
chinquapin
montana
castanea

Rhynchospora
capillacea
macrostachya
fusca.
Rivina.
Rosa.
Rochelia
lappula
Rhus aromatic:
viridiflora
Rumex acutus
pallidus
aquaticus
Rubus setosus
frondosus
hispidus
inermis
obovalis
chamaemorus.
Rhinanthus.

Ranunculus
lingualis
auricomus
pygmaeus
fasciculatis
hirsutus
prostratus
lamiginosus
marilandicus
aquatilis
lacustris
nivalis
lapponicus
hyperboreus.
Rudbeckia
fulgida
digitata.

Salvia urticifolia
Schollera graminea
Scirpus tenuis.
glaucus
pusillus
intermedius
subterminalis
cespitosus
lumineus.
Stipa canadensis.
Sanguisorba media.
Swertia.
Sagina apetala
Sabbatia chloroides.
Salsola tragus
soda.
Sium lineare.
Statice armeria.
Sibbaldia.
Sesuvium.
Streptopus
lanuginosus.
Saxifraga - (all but
- virg: & penn:)
Silene noctuma.
Stellaria borealis
palustris
uliginosa
humifusa.
Spiraea lobata
crenata
corymbosa.
Sarracenia
heterophylla.
Stachys hyssopifolia.
Scutellaria
ovalifolia
cordifolia
Scrophularia
lanceolata
Subularia.
Sysirinchium
mucronatum
bermudianum.
Sida napaea
dioica.
Strophostyles
helvola
Sonchus arvensis
macrophyllus
alpinus
leucophaeus
pallidus.
Sparganophorus.
Solidago!
Salix!

Senecio gracilis
elongatus
paucifloras
pauperculus
obovatus
canadensis
Silphium
integrifolium
trifoliatum
Sparganium
angustifol:
Scleria verticillata.
Sagittaria hastata
heterophylla
rigida
graminea
simplex
natans.
Smilax caduca
quadrangularis.
Scolopendrium!
Saltinia!

Trichodium scabrum.
Trisetum
purpurascens
subspicatum.
Tillaea ascendens.
Tofieldia
glutinosa
pusilla.
Trillium petiolatum
purpureum
obovatum.
Tilia pubescens
laxiflora
Thalictrum!
Trollius!
Turritis!
Tussilago!
Triphora!
Trifolium
pennsylvan:
agrarium
campestre.

Utricularia gibba
minor.
fornicata
intermedia
purpurea
Uvularia
aristulata.
Ulmus nemoralis.
Urasperma
hirsutum.
Uvularia flava.
Urtica urens
dioica
procera.

Veronica alpina
beccabunga
agrestis
hederifolia
Viola!
Viburnum
pyrifolium
cassinoides
edule.
Vicia americana
Vernonia praealta
Verbesina
virginica
Vallisneria!

Vaccinium
virgatum
ligustrinum
myrtiloides
cespitosum
vitis-idaea.
Vilfa heterolepis. G.

Woodsia hyperborea.

Xanthium orientale
Xylosteum
solonis
villosum

Zapania lanceolata
Zannichellia!
Zanthoxylum!

Musci,
Hepaticae,
Algae,
Lichenes,
Fungi,
as many
as you please!

In the above list, when the Genera alone are mentioned, all the species will be acceptable.

Any new species under any of the genera will be very welcome; or any species not mentioned in Eaton.

Cyperaceae, Gramineae, Filices, & Musci, are particularly desired.

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

The above is a list of my wants — a nice long one — giving you scope enough for selection. I have not a copy of any Flora from which I could make a selection except Eaton's Manual, by which means however I have made out a more comprehensive list. It will answer for yourself and Dr. Gray; for him I shall prepare a parcel as soon as he informs me of what he wants. To you I shall forward a package of Mountain plants collected this summer as soon as I find a waggon going to the Low Country, which I hope will be shortly.

Can you take charge of a Box for Dr. Hooker from me? I do not know how to get it to him but by troubling you. Another thing. Will it be proper to forward him any unpublished species? I should like to make him out as good a parcel as he can afford, but if he would snatch up the species I shall not send undescribed ones.

I think of going to Columbia S.C. next week, & shall make a flying trip to Charleston, & can, to see Elliott, Ravenel, Bachelor & Curtis of whom I have spoken to you. Elliott is a clergyman & a Botanist. Ravenel is a planter & Botanist. Curtis is a young man, under the guardianship of the Rev. Dr. Lance, & a Botanist. I have written to them requesting them to call on you. Elliott is the author of the Botany of S.C. & Ga. Bachelor is a young man, under the guardianship of Elliott, & a Botanist. Curtis is a young man, under the guardianship of Elliott, & a Botanist.

Prof. John Torrey
New York.

Oct. 21st. 1836.

The Vaccinium I described in my last letter is V. erythrocarpum Mx. Its habit is any thing else but that of Oxycoccus macrocarpus. I am anxious by wanting a letter from you. — As I have nothing to do at present, I should like very much to have some observations on my catalogue that I may proceed to finish it. ... Is Panicum gibbum, C. & P. striatum &c. Is not Carex bullata, Ell. the C. foliymorpha, M? — & his Trillium nervosum, the T. stylosum, M? — & his, Curtis's Euphorbia portulacoides one of the varieties of E. ipecacuanhae? — — — Hooker offers me plants from the Northern regions, from Texas & Louisiana! —— I wish you to retain the money I sent you, subject to my order. I wish you to add Gray's Elements of Botany, Beck's Botany, & Eaton's Manual (7th edition) if it be out, to the list of purchases. — In the box of plants which I soon have ready for you I have put two cones of Pinus pungens, one of which is for Dr. Gray. I will send him the leaves hereafter. Nov. 1. I expect to be in Wilmington in 30 days & will send your box thence. Please to address me at W. until further direction. Yours very truly, Wm. M. Curtis.

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

61

Wilmington Jan 13th 1837.

Reading 23

and - April 11th

LIBRARY
NEW YORK
BOTANICAL
GARDEN.

My dear Sir,

I advertised you a fortnight since by Dr. Gray, that I should write you in a short time, & send a box of plants to your name. The parcel is completed, & comprises portions for Hooker, Gray, & yourself. As I have lately supplied you with the elite of my summer's collection, I have nothing of moment for you. I have sent you a dozen or fifteen species, more to look at than for any thing else. A part of them, of which I have no duplicates, you will find marked to be returned. I have frequently sent you plants which I hardly supposed you wanted, that you might know where they grew. As you are to publish a Flora, I supposed localities were desirable as well as plants. Among the present plants are two (?) species of Psilocarya. I have put them in my catalogue as P. sinoides & rhynchosporoides, but I am not satisfied fully about them. You have had these plants before.

My corrections & additions for my catalogue have been sent to Boston. Some useless matter has been cut out. I have given that Amorpha a name and description. Having lately examined it anew, & compared it with our other species, I believe it is specifically distinct, & easily recognised. I have called it A. cyanostachya. You call the Lepil. purple, but I call it blue decidedly, excepting perhaps the summit.

Given by A. M. VAIL. from the D. D. Brooke Collection

The Books which you sent me were rec'd in good order. I am greatly obliged to you for this service. The 5th vol. of D.C. I hope you will procure for me as soon as it is to be had. Would D.C. Syst. Nat. be useful to me? & does Eyp. Indicae? - I shall be glad of any works which you think I ought to have. If you have not purchased the Annals of the N.Y. Lyceum, you may omit them for the present. There are other works which I need more. Beck & Eaton however, I want to receive.

Your Monograph is a great treat; I have been over it several times. But I cannot clearly make out two or three of your species which you accredit to me. I wish you would give me a full list of all the Cyperaceae rec'd from me, including Rhynchosporae, with the catch letters or numbers annexed, so that I may have your species with certainty.

I am a little surprised that you overlooked a spike of Cyperus tetragonus! which you retained from my specimen. - What has become of your Carex Curtisii? have you given it up? - Are you sure that C. alata is more than a form of C. foenea? did not Croom send you C. vernalis from this State? C. panicea I have from Canada as well as from Mass. & suspect it is native. - C. vernicosa Ell! differs from his C. glaucescens! only in having numerous staminate spikes. - Your reference of Eriocaulon lineare to me must be a mistake, I think. - You remark that you have never rec'd Scirpus atrovirens from the Southern States. We have it in the W. part of N.C. and I saw

it in Herb. Ell. from N. C. by Schweinitz, labelled Scirpus lineatus! & another spec: from the same, labelled S. exaltatus! — I also saw in Herb. Ell. a plant labelled Scirpus submersus by Ell, agreeing exactly with a specimen from Mass. labelled by Torrey S. subterminalis. Where Ell's spec. was from did not appear. - By the way, is not Scirpus nitens, Vahl. a species of Psilocarya?

I am disposed to believe that Juncus squar: Mx. is a perfectly distinct plant from your var J. - I have examined it so often in this State, in every stage of growth, & find it so uniform in its characters, year after year, that I cannot but believe it is perfectly distinct.

Do you not make too much of the color of the sect in Cyperaceae? — — — I have been looking at Rhynchospora patens, Ell! (of which I have a spec: from Sullivan's Fls?) & find it nearer a Rhynchospora than I at first supposed. It must be Polyprogon Monspeliense, or some species closely allied. — Panicum (45) which I sent you is P. scoparium, Ell, only mine is more hispid. - Panic:(aa) osum, Ell. it agreed as near as I could recollect with my specimens of P. stylosum M. collected in this State. I could not, of course, dissect Ell's specimens to see the style of this plant, but a specimen is in the Herb. from some correspondent, agreeing essentially with Ell's spec: on the label of which is written - "monandrous". I think therefore that they are the same. Ell's descriptions are not always good. - You will however see all these things for yourself. I hope.

I wish you would send me as full suite of Cyperaceae as you can possibly spare, excepting such as you know that I possess. A single specimen is all I want.

In the Box of plants I enclose a sheet with some remarks on the plants sent to Hooker. My means for working out plants are very limited & I have left some work for you.

On these, as on all I sent you in a previous parcel, I am very anxious to hear your decision, & remarks. Those which are new, (if such there be) or obscure or rare, & need description or elucidation I should like to work out a paper from. Will you lend a hand, or offer advice?

Very truly your friend. M. A. Curtis.

Prof. Asa Gray
New York
N.Y.

Can you send me Schweinitz MSS. or Mr. C's package you mentioned by the next mail. If so I should be glad to return it in a short time. If not I have no use for it.

P. S.

Is your Flora in the printer's hands yet? I am impatient for it. Direct to me for the present at Raleigh. Any thing by sea, should be directed to Wilmington, care of Dr. A. J. DeRosset. My new residence will open a new field for botanizing, but I am very uncertain of being able to improve it.

Since packing my box I have been into the woods & picked a few Pine cones for Hooker. They will be injured & spoil. I leave them for you to label. The Box goes in a week or ten days, per Schr. Undaunted. Enquire of John Ogden, South Street.

Raleigh, N. C. Feb: 17th 1887

Am'd. ~~Feby~~ April 11th

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Dear Sir;

Your letter of Jan: 3d reached me yesterday, it having been kept a long time at Wilmington. A letter from Dr. Gray came with it.

I should hardly have troubled you with a reply so soon, were it not for a passage in your letter which for a moment perplexed & then amused me. I mean your joke upon my Pyrus coronaria. Now I can assure you that I plucked many a fine crab-apple from that same Acer rubrum, as you call it. And furthermore, I saw scores of such fruit trees in the mountains with leaves exactly similar. The same tree, which furnished the specimen I sent you, furnished me with apples which I long preserved! There is but one way in which I could have mistaken. I might possibly have thrown in a specimen of A. rubrum in a hurry, & labelled it Pyrus coronaria, because that plant was in my mind at the time. But this is not very probable, for I have not a specimen of A. rubrum, with leaves, in all my collection! I think therefore, that another examination of the specimen, with Michaux' plate before you, will convince you that it is a genuine Pyrus coronaria! When I sent this plant to you, I was in doubt about it because I had always considered P. angustifolia, which I had only seen, as the true coronaria. P. angusti: is abundant in the low country. Perhaps it is only a variety.

You say that "Stachys hispida" seems to be Elliott's plant," but is not of Pk. also; & the S. aspera, Mich? — — Dont think that I am going to follow Eaton, because I use his names. His Manual is the only bortable work I have, & I am often obliged to use it. —— Orchis (aa), which you call O. truncata, I had refered to O. tridentata. — Asarum (aa) has coriaceous leaves, but have become flaccid by drying; I thought it might be A. virg: & therefore sent it to you for determination. — Oenothera (aa) I had referred to O. amplifolia M. as I have mentioned in a late letter, I think; but can it be Oe. fruticosa? —— Rhododendron Catawbiense must be right. I have collected it (sine fl.) on Mich.s locality. I am sorry I have lost my Silene. I had been over Pursh carefully, I thought, but could not make it out. Vaccinium erythrocarpum must be a true Vaccinium I think. I know of nothing except its cleft corolla which could separate it, & that cannot be enough to make a genus. "Melanthium hybridum" is the same (I think) with the specimen in Herb. Ell. which does not differ as I can discover from his specimen of M. virgin: "Hamamelis" which I sent is very different from a specimen of H. macrophylla in Herb. Ell! —— Have you not made a mistake about Carex tabularia? The fruit & scale is very different from C. gracillima, if I recollect. Is it not near C. formosa? The Ammania which has been the subject of consideration so long, I have been all along disposed to make a new genus of, & to call it Hygrophrjchia. As Arnott, however, has made several sections in Ammania it might be well enough to make a new one out of this plant. If Dr. Gray had not been working upon it with others of the order, I should have published

GRAY CARLSTUDENT
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

it this Spring as a new Genus. I will adopt his suggestion in regard to it and call it najoides. I do not like Nuttall well enough to give it to him. Please to inform Dr. Gray of this, as I have not time at present to write to him.

The Liatris which I sent you from Yellow Mt., (I forget the name I gave it) which in a subsequent note accompanying the Box for Hooker I suggested was the L. scariosa, var. conspicuiflora, Ell, I think I saw in Herb. Ell. sub nom. L. squarrosoidea. But my notes are not by me, & I cannot specify with certainty. If this be the fact, it may be his conspicuiflora after all, for he did not change his labels in a great many instances.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

I am at present in a scene of toil & labor. From sunrise till ten o'clock at night I cannot call any of the time my own. I have no time to think of Botany, every thing now making way for Latin & Greek. I am in an Institution similar to Muhlenberg at Flushing, & for want of more Teachers am closely confined by constant duty. I shall not continue here longer than June at the present rate of labor. No man can live under it for a long time. I have hardly time to write a letter.

The specimens of Pinus in the Box for Hooker were P. mitis, P. taeda, P. serotina, & P. palustris, besides a P. pungens. — In the box for you, previously sent, were two cones of P. pungens, one of which was for Gray. The leaves were in a parcel directed to him.

The plants in the parcel for Hooker, I want you to put new labels to, when they are wrong. — I shall wait impatiently for the remaining observations on my plants. You have a good many of my plants sent long ago, upon which you have given no opinion yet. I shall give you a list

of them by & by. There is one however I want to hear about, which you once called Panicum Alabamense, & afterwards Paspalum floridanum, var: — I sent it in one parcel under the name of Paspalum Carolinianum.

Prof. John Torrey
N. York
N. Y.

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Gray accords with me in regard to the little Ludwigia sufflora, which I sent you long since. Still, I believe it be [illegible] but he seems to make species out of every thing.

My respects to Dr. Gray.

yours respectfully

M. A. Curtis,

Raleigh, Sept: 15th 1837.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
HERBARIUM
CORRESPONDENCE

My Dear Sir.

Yours of the 28th ult was rec'd a few days since. I was very glad to hear from you again, for I began almost to think that you had given me up. I was however disposed to impute your silence to the duties of your great survey. How I should have rejoiced to have been with you in your herborizing expeditions; thought if I have leisure for such employment it will be devoted to the plants of N. C. - I am very anxious to spend an entire season in our Mts with nothing else to do, but such a thing can hardly be done. And when I shall be able to make a partial survey I know not.

So I have lost my last new species. I was really certain of that plant. I am sorry though, that it proves the same with Croom's plant, but I had not access to his description. My impression was, that he had founded that species on its single spike. - But let it go, I shall try some more hyss hyss. — Polidago elliptica, Ell. in my Catal. should be a synonyme to S. pyramidata. As near as I can recollect they are the same, but I am not certain.

I should have sent a copy to Gray, but I thought he had gone to the S. Sea. I will order a copy for him, directed to you, though I am afraid he will hardly thank me for it. But that is the only way I can pay for his favors. — — I have done very little this Summer, having been too busy in other matters. I believe I have found within a day or two your Liparocarpha, but I have not yet scrutinized it. — By the way, you have not yet reported on my Psilocaryas, though you speak of your negligence in this very letter. — — I have not heard from Hooker yet. What is the matter with him. — Did you write for Drummond's Musci Americani. I should like to get it very much. And did you send for Trimen on the Grapes. — Hooker's Flor: Bor: Am: I must give up for the present, but please to send me Thw: this August: & Nees' Asterew. I am anxious for Fl. Prod: Ty. Some of my Compositæ bother me, & I want to sit down to them this winter. I think I have one in the new Solidagos! You have them I believe. One I called S. Mairi (fl: in Aug. Hab: Wilmington), the other is a what corymbose species from the highest Mts.

Broom's Sarraceniae came to hand a few days since. That is a beautiful species of his, & I would give a dollar for a specimen. So tell Chapman to get some Florida plants for me. — What you have promised to send of the products of your late excursion has set me crazy. Let me have everything rare & choice which you can spare.

I am also very anxious to see Gray's Melanthaceae. What has he made out of my veratrum parviflorum? I hope that will not turn out to be Helonias graminea. Is not Hel: gram: the veratrum angust:? But I suppose the Monog: will settle all that. — Did I ever ask you if Liriosprunga Americana, Mx. was not Actaea spicata? I should like to know. And Lyc, if Thalictrum anemonoides Mx. is not Actaea alnata. I do not know that would be a greater error than the "six capsules" to his Wendlandia.

You describe Liparophyta maculata as having a stem 3 angled, & so does Ell. My plant has it not so. The stem is compressed & 2 ang:, the base being almost 3 ang:. I have examined numerous fresh specimens. The leaves & involucre are not keeled, but connex below. You. In the same way you have both agreed in giving Bleachaia simplex a terete stem, while my specimens (you have some of them) have the stem acutely angled, like B. tenuis. — I will enclose in in the letter a specimen of the Bleachaia I spoke of in my last letter — also, a Liparophyta; & also, a small Eupat. What do you make of them? — I found, a day or two since, Eupatorium linearifolium? with leaves & branches in 4's. I found abundance of it & this was its general habit, though it varied with leaves & branches in 3's, opposite, or alternate. Style much longer than the cord; Leaves linear, entire, one line wide, obscurely 3 nerved.

I enclose a Rhynchospora alba, which I take to be R. gracilenta. — Let me hear from you as soon as you can afford to write, & believe me very Truly yours. W. C. Curtis.

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Prof. John Torrey
New York
N.Y.

RALEIGH N.C.
DEC 9

Rec'd. March 1837.

The plants for Hooker are not all named, and I send them open, that you may serve them as you see fit before they go. I will express my own wishes, however, in regard to them. Stenanthium hydrobrychia. I like that name and wish it continued if there is no insuperable objection to it. It means the same as sulcatum, only is of Greek derivation. Carex — which I sent to you as C. tabulandra — may be C. formosa. but if new, I wish the name continued — I have not studied it. "Cyperus" — is, I suppose, C. erythrorhizus, but not knowing for certain, I left it for you to name.

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE HERBARIUM OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

"Heuchera" — I call H. foliosa, I cannot refer it to any described plant. — — "Helonias graminea" Ell!" is not I think that of the Bot. Mag. but I cannot now determine. I sent it to you I believe as H. pulchellum; let it be continued, if new species. Is it not Melanth: racemosum, Mx?. — Melanthium hybridum M. — Do you know whether this is veratrum parviflorum, of Herb. Mx? If not is may it not be Melanthium latifolium, Lk.? If you have a copy to the Enc. Meth. I wish you would see. If not any of these, I would call it veratrum (for such I believe it to be) heterophyllum. Oenothera — if not O. ambigua, must be new & may be called O. gonoptera. — The Silene - white flowered - is already named. I cannot refer it to any species known. Solidago — one flowering in May - I have ever considered undescribed & would call it S. maia.

Another species of Solidago - rough leaved, with long tapering base — I cannot refer to any described species - & would call aspenata or scabrata. — The smooth leaved one (ss. in the package I sent you last year) I know nothing about and cannot speak upon it. — You can do as you please about sending these plants to him before they are published. I never intended sending them without informing Hooker that I claimed them & expected he would not meddle with them. I am too patriotic to give them up to a foreigner. If you think best, you can take out all the unknown species, and send off the rest, waiting till they are settled before you send them. Heuchera villosa? in the package is a troublesome plant to me. The Genus needs settling.

Prof. John Torrey.

New York.

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Raleigh, N. C. Nov. 20th 1838.

And Nov. 30th

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Dear Sir.

It is now more than 18 months since I have heard one word from you, though I have written twice in the mean time; that is, some 12 or 14 months since. Your line of duties has, I suppose, drawn you away from correspondents who cannot be of more service to you than myself. To all which I submit with the best grace I can.

I must however pester you this once, to ascertain whether you have purchased any more books for me, particularly D. C. Vol. V. as I have been long impatient to get hold of it. If you have any, please to leave them with Mr. Turner, [180 Broad Way, up Stairs,] to be sent to me by first chance care of Turner & Hughes Raleigh, N. C. If this is done soon, I shall get them in a short time, otherwise I may have to wait till Spring. If you are desirous of getting rid of any further agency of this kind, you may enclose the balance of the money to Rev. J. Curtis, Charlestown, Mass.

I shall be sorry if I have put you to any inconvenience or trouble in this

matter; but my excuse must be, that you first invited it. I am greatly obliged to you for your kindness in thus assisting me in procuring what I could not so easily have obtained elsewhere. — —

My respects to Dr. Gray, if he is with you, & believe me

very respectfully

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

M. A. Curtis

Raleigh N.C. May 7th 1839

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Dear Sir.

Your letter of last Fall has remained a long time unanswered because I wished to acknowledge the receipt of my Books, & also give you a few names as Subscribers to your Flora. I can do nothing of either, and am unwilling to mail replies from my correspondents any longer, or to delay answering yours. — My Books have not arrived, & I know not where they are, unless they are filed away at one of our Rail Road Depots, where I understand there is much negligence in the transmission of goods.

Will you do me the favor to let me know how my account stands with you? You are to regard me as a subscriber to your Flora of course, & if there is not money enough in your hands, I can pay up as occasion requires. Dr J. J. McRee, Wilmington, will take your work, & will thank you to send the Nos to him, as they come out. The first No he has not yet got.

Prof. E. Mitchell of N. C. University will take the two Nos you sent in my parcel, & will doubtless take the entire work, though I have not his word for it. Wilson of Newbern will also take it without doubt, but he has not yet replied to my application. & Hunter of Lincoln Co Ten. will also take it, without doubt. The published Nos he had sent for, before I knew there were any out. The first knowledge I had of them was from him. — These are all the names you can calculate upon in this State.

I am in haste for the completion of your Flora, & hope you will urge it on as rapidly as accuracy will allow. What orders do you take up next? Will your work include the whole Cryptogamia?

Can you give me any reason why Hooker has never made any acknowledgement for the plants I sent him? I intend to make him sorry for this. He will get none of the products of my next Summers tour in our Mts, when I intend to make collections that would make him break the tenth Commandment to look at. To be more definite. I shall close my affairs in this place the first of June, & expect to be at leisure for the remainder of the year. This will give me four or five months leisure to

ramble at my ease through our Mts. — I have chalked out the whole Alpine region from the head waters of the Kenhawa to the sources of the Kiamasee, including the rich territory lately ceded by the Cherokees, & which I suspect has never been examined by a Botanist. I only wish I could have reached the Mts about the 15th of May, so as to get some of the Spring plants in flower; as the Diphyllia, the Cruciferae, & Carices, particularly C. Fraseri, which I would give a handsome sum to meet with.

I need a companion very much, but am afraid I shall have to work single handed.

I hardly need say how satisfactory your Flora is. — Your localities are not always extensive enough, though I do not know how you could be expected to know every locality of the plants in our country. You will not feel very deeply mortified, I presume, nor have your opinions very particularly unsettled, if I say that I have sometimes questioned your references, though I remember only one at present, & that is the one about which I am most confident; — I mean Nuttall's G. pilosa. Darlington has expressed my opinion in his Flora, & I shall probably hold to it until I have the evidence of positive proof against me.

Respectfully

M. A. Curtis

HERBARIUM COLUMBIA

95

Prof. John Torrey,
New York
N. Y.

Raleigh, May 23d. 1840

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Dear Sir,

On my way to the mountains of N. Car: early last June, I addressed you a letter from Chapel Hill on the subject of the package which you had directed to me a year or more previous. As I have not since heard from you, I fear that you did not get my letter; & I am therefore induced to rehearse my lament again. My last letter was nothing but a lament, I believe, over the probable loss of the books you had been so kind as to procure for me, & of which I am not yet able to hear a syllable.

I think I made a suggestion in my last letter, that some mistake had been made in the place, as Mr Tanner writes that no such package has been left at his Office. And I asked the favor of your making enquiry about it, to see if the package could not be recovered. Allow me to repeat the request, if you can find time to attend to it, as I am very loath to lose the books, & probably shall not be able to procure any more. I am sorry to give you any trouble in this matter, but I know not what other course to adopt.

How much money of mine remains unexpended? What remains I wish to be appropriated to the payment of the N. A. Flora. If there is not enough, I will forward the amount. — I have recieved only two Nos. Are there any more yet out? If so, please to send them to me. — Direct to Washington, N. C. where I now reside.

I am here at present on business, & leave in a day or two — I write in haste.

HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

yours respectfully
M. A. Curtis.

Prof. J. Torrey
N. York

RALEIGH
MAY
24
NC

PAID

10

Prof. John Torrey

New York

N. Y.

Wilmington N.C. May 24th 1841

Rec'd May 31st

Ans. Oct. 20th 1842

HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Dear Sir.

I should not address you just now. had it not occured to me to suggest a more suitable route for the packages you have for me, than the one intimated in my late letter to Dr. Gray. You had better send them, like the one sent last Fall, to Raleigh N.C. (care of Turner & Hughes) via Petersburg, Va. (care of J.G. McPheeters). If you have already sent them to Washington, it does not matter, as I can easily get them sent to me. You have no need to trouble yourself with seeking a vessel; for if you deposit articles for me in the Office of Mr. ~~[illegible]~~ Turner in Broadway No. —, upstairs, they will reach me.

I wish to say, that it is by no suggestion of mine, that these packages were sent to your care. I should not have thought of troubling in that way, as you have doubtless enough of better business to perform. I am however greatly obliged to you for your favor in taking charge of them, & should be happy, if I had opportunity, to reciprocate.

I have Deland: Prodromus through vols: 7:— I shall be very glad, when you import the remaining vols: for yourself, that you would procure one for me also.

You did not tell me in your last the cost of those fine lenses, you wrote about last Oct.

Of the plants you wrote about in your last, I find that I had guessed nearly all as you have referred them. It was however little but guessing, for I have done little at studying plants for two years.

Is not Malva Houghtonii the M. triangulata, Leaven? I have only the short account of the latter in Eaton, but it seems to apply to your plant.

If I remember the Hypericum (c), it was one of the suffruticose species. You call it "H. parviflorum, var:" Is it not H. prolificum? ——— The plant which I called "Koeleria?" I have not examined for several years, but I remember that when I first collected it, I was struck by its close resemblance to Koeleria, the awns aside; hence the name I applied. I know not what it is. I wish you would compare it with Trisetum palustre, & see if it can be that.

The "Panicum — a form of P. anceps?" struck me as being perhaps your P. carinatum in my catalogue, but I had neither specimen nor description to compare it with. Suppose you compare them. — The plants which I felt most anxiety about, you have not alluded to. They were those I described as new, together with a Carex from Washington, Cyperus, from French Broad River, Linum, Nemophyllum, Polygonum, Prunus, Vitis, & particularly those marked Cruciferæ, & Pinnata.

The Aster (cc) I do not remember with certainty. But if it be one from "Burke", which I had myself thought to be new, then I know exactly where I collected it & may be able to get more. The A. gracilentus, of which Dr Gray writes, I have no recollection of. — As to your Saxifraga Wolleana, I recognized it instantly as my S. erosa though rather more luxuriant in its leaves, & that was the reason of my sending mine to you for comparison. I have no doubt of their identity.

HERBARIUM
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

I have lately been called to Hillsborough N.C. & if the Parish is able to support me (rather doubtful) I hope I shall be able to keep quiet for a few years. My late migratory life has been neither pleasant nor profitable in any way. This place being near Raleigh, I shall be able to remove my Herbarium easily, which has been out of my reach for two years, as well as my books.

I have not yet rec.d the N.A. Flora, No. 5. which I am eager for, as well as for No. 6, which I hope will follow shortly. I desire exceedingly that my Compositae as far as determined may be made accurately known to me, through the names & marks which I sent. Do not make any mistakes.

What is the cost of Endlicher's Gen: Plant:? & could you get me a copy?

The more I think of the matter, the more I am inclined to think that Gray & Carey will find the best picking in Ashe Co. N.C. I do not believe it has been explored. The region is a wild one, & some of the knobs very high. I think very likely that Short may be disposed to join them, as he proposed a tour to me this summer.

I hope you will be able to write me erelong about more of my plants. In the mean time, I remain very respectfully yours &c

W. A. Curtis.

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Prof. John Torrey
New York
N.Y.

P.S. – I find on looking over my list of plants sent to Darl. that I sent him the "Koeleria" – under the name of Trisetum?

Raleigh, N. Car. Nov. 15th, 1862.

CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
UNIVERSITY.

Dear Sir,

It is indeed a long time since we exchanged letters. I have however all along supposed that it amounted to the same thing, whether I addressed my letters to you or Gray. I had deemed you as much identified in botanical matters as man & wife in conjugal. I got into the way of writing to Dr. Gray because of his reporting on my plants. I have had little of interest to communicate myself, so that I do not suppose that you have suffered essentially by my correspondence taking a new direction.

I am glad to learn that Buckley is to publish his plants. His report about Rugel roused me, & I immediately sent Silliman an account of ten or a dozen plants which I deemed new, begging him to insert the paper in his next number, & giving the reasons of my urgency. I think it a matter of consequence to head Rugel's friends, as you say; otherwise I should merely sent my notes to yourself & Gray as heretofore. If I am not too late, it will be well perhaps that I inform you what plants I have described in the above paper, as far as they relate to ~~plants~~ species in Buckley's profession.

Thermopsis caroliniana;- T. fraxinifolia (Baptisia mollis. Nutt: & Tor. & Gray,); - Hypericum Buckleii (H. Dowellianum in my mss. sent to you a year or two since); - Helianthus Dowellianus; - Lindernia saxicola; - & vaccinium ursinum. These are all I can think of, which Buckley has. I have also described Baptisia mollis, Mich. I mention these, so that Buckley can include them in his pamphlet, if he wishes; I suppose he does not wish to get them away from me.

You offer to give me your opinion of Buckley's plants in advance of his pamphlet if I desire it. If his pamphlet will appear soon, that trouble will be unnecessary; but if not, I should like your decision upon two species of Andromeda, & two of Vaccinium, which he has, & of a Senecio allied to S. Canadensis. One Andromeda is allied to A. racemosa; the other, I have had several years from S. Carolina, & it certainly is described in no book which I have. I had half a mind to describe it in my paper, but I thought it likely that Nuttall might have picked it up somewhere, & if not, that you & Gray would soon describe it from Buckley's specimens. When Buckley was with me I hastily called it A. ferruginea, confounding it in my haste with a plant which I knew perfectly well.

Borya distichophylla I soon recognized, & after examination I found it to be no Borya, but proceeded no further in the matter. I am glad that Buckley has abundant material for settling its character. Do you recollect the fragment of a shrub which I sent you a few years since (& since returned) which I labelled "Pinnata"? The leaves were not pinnate but opposite on opposite short branches, ovate, entire, 2. in. long & one or more wide. It occurs to me that it may be another

species of the same genus. The shrub is 1-2 ft. high, growing near Lincolnton, but I have never seen flower or fruit. I have searched diligently for this plant in the books, but it cannot be found, & must be undescribed.

Gray's card: Excursion, as it appeared in the N. C. papers was prepared by myself at the request of the Pres^t of our University. It was however hardly noticed in the State!! This is real N. Carolina indifference.

A new edition of my catalogue, about which you make enquiry, I have never contemplated. I merely intend, when the N. A. Flora is completed, to furnish a supplement to the Boston Journal of Nat: Hist. I have detected about sixty more species at Wilmington since its publication. I may possibly publish a catalogue of N. Car: plants at some future time. I have already about 1800 species. I suppose there are 200 or 300 more in the State. Buckley added about 20 to my list.

Lunth's Enum: Plant: Vol: III. I have got.

I should have answered your letter at once, but it came to hand the very hour I was starting for Newbern, from whence I am now returning. I took a box of plants along for Gray, comprising over 100 specimens of Carex Fraseri, & about 20 other things of no great interest except two or three. Among them Baptisia mollis in flower & fruit, Galactia sessiliflora from N. Car: (!) Scirpus Mitchellii (n. sp?) & Fothergilla Hunteriana (n. sp?) The last you may have seen in Buckley's bundle, as I gave him a specimen. It looks like Hamamelis. The Scirpus looks a little like S. Americanus.

I am surprised at your addressing me at Washington, for I left that place 18 months ago, & now live in Hillsborough. It is rather a poor locality for plants, but it has got Baptisia mollis, & Asplenium montanum. On my way hither to day, I got fine specimens of the fruit of Baptisia villosa.

If I had thought of it in season, I would have sent you a few plants by Buckley. I have hardly anything however, which I have not already sent. I must try to get a few specimens of Bapt: mollis to you, which you certainly never saw, unless Dr. Hunter sent it to you.

What do you think of Engelmann's Cuscutae? He has sent me several species (?) but I have never examined them. His new genus is a pretty looking affair.

HARVEY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
UNIVERSITY.

Rev. John Torrey
Princeton
N. Jersey

Please to tell Buckley, that I had due enquiry made for his overcoat, but could hear nothing of it. Present my compliments to him.

Truly yours

M. A. Curtis

HARVEY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Hillsborough N.C. Apl: 16 1/2/46

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Dear Sir,

It is a long time since you have seen this hand of mine, which used to inflict a frequent epistle upon your patience, but I doubt if you have forgotten its crabbed aspect. I should like, if agreeable to you, to renew the intercourse, though on a new subject. I have pretty much worked out in this State, whatever is of much interest among the Vasculares, especially in my immediate vicinity, & as I crave some recreation of the sort, have latterly turning attention to the Cellulares, especially Lichenes & Fungi. My Firewood alone has kept me pretty busy the past winter on these Orders. The former I have sent to Tuckerman. The latter I know of no one to send to in this country, unless it be yourself. I see by Schweinitz' paper in the Phil: Trans: that he had received some Fungi from you, & it has occured to me that you may have received not a few from him. I wish as far as possible to identify his species, & shall be very glad to get from you any authentic specimens, even as a loan. But I shall value any Fungi you can let me have. I am at that stage of progress in the business, where the least aid is felt & appreciated. I have made applications to Berkeley of England & to Fries, but it will be some time, if they are disposed to accept my proposals, before I can derive any benefit from them. In the mean time I would avail myself of any nearer aid that can be had.

I do not know if you have ever made any study of the Fungi, or take any interest in them. If you do, I will make all suitable returns for any specimens you can spare me. I will endeavor that you be not on the losing side of the bargain. I do not expect to become a very accomplished Mycologist, for I have not proper eyes for frequent microscopic examinations, but I mean to do what I can towards a good collection for those that come after, & shall elaborate as far as I can whatever comes to hand. As it is an extensive field, I shall avail myself of whatever can be got from others to facilitate my progress over it. Should I be any way successful, I shall probably confine myself hereafter mostly to that one thing.

I will also exchange Lichenes with you, if you wish. I have sent Tuckerman some new things, & shall probably send not a few more. These I do not study much, - & they will mostly stand to his names.

Should the present application not meet your wishes, I hope you will not hesitate frankly to say so. I am far from wishing to be a burden to any one.

Very respectfully
your friend
M. A. Curtis.

P.S. Do you know any person in the U.S. who has collected Fungi?

CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Society Hill, S. Car: Sept: 13th 1849.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
UNIVERSITY.

Dear Sir,

I was agreeably surprised to-day by your favor of the 5th. My last to you, some two years ago probably, had remained so long unanswered, that I had pretty much made up my mind that I should hear from you no more. At this, however, I could not complain or be surprised, since I could hardly furnish matter in return that would be worth the postage.

In my last letter, above mentioned, there were some enquiries made, in the answer to which I should feel much interest. They had reference to your posession of authentic specimens of Fungi from Schweinitz, & whether you could spare any. I thought it probable you might have some, as Mr. S. mentions several species in his Paper (Phil: Transact: Philad) as recieved from you. I am exceedingly anxious to verify as many of his species as possible. In many instances this can never be done without specimens. The Philad: Academy, as I am informed by Dr. Bridges, has no duplicates with the Schweinitzian Herbarium. If you have any to spare, I shall be glad to send you some in return for them.

I have Schweinitz' Paper on Carolina Fungi from Leipsic Transactions, as also his larger one on American Fungi. I have Lea's Catalogue, & about all the new species in the list of Fungi.

My advertisement in Sill: Journ: was intended chiefly to invite propositions for exchange. I do not care about selling specimens, for they would hardly pay for their preparation.

I do not wonder that Prof: Bailey & yourself have failed to find spores in the Tuckahoe – Pachyma Cocos, Fries. It has none – is not an autonomous plant. Since I came to this region, where it abounds, I have been making investigations into its history with reference to a paper upon it for Silliman. All that now remains obscure upon it is its first cause, or what gives it a start. I have satisfactorily ascertained that it originates from vegetable substances. If it is your intention to publish anything about it, I will give you such materials as I have gathered. The analysis of substance I obtained from Prof: Ellett last year. This curious production extends as far south as Texas. I have specimens larger than my head from this neighborhood. I do not think that any Mycologists regard it as a Fungus, though it has as much title to be so considered as most of the Sclerotia, among which Schweinitz originally placed it. I wish you would inform me where Braconnot originally obtained the Pectin.

Fries refers Lycoperdon solidum, Gron: to the Pachyma :– but L. solidum, Linn. to a species of Elaphomyces.

You express some regret that I have turned my attention to this department. But what else could I do? I had worked up all the Phanerogams in my reach, & nothing was left to gratify my botanical ardor unless I took up the Cryptogams. I needed some field of operation, which I could enter & work upon, whenever I was in the humor for labor, & with the prospect of an occasional harvest of something new to me. That field I have entered, & if I had ten lives I could hardly get through it. Something new is arising at every turn, nor need I move a half mile from my door for material. Nearly all my gatherings here are within that distance. Besides, it is high time that this department of our Flora be receiving some attention from a native American. I can at least make a beginning – The end is a long way off.

I was not before aware that you had ever published anything upon the Tuckahoe. Where can I find the papers, as I should like, if I prepare a paper, to see what you have said upon the matter?

I shall be glad to recieve the "botanical tracts" you speak of. They may be left with John Wiley, 161 Broadway.

I presume that I could give you little news of interest on the Flora of this region. I am near what McBride called the most interesting botanical district he was acquainted with. The first season I spent here, I looked sharply about, & though I found some species that are rare, I saw but one that I did not already posses, (Baptisia Serenae, mihi) & a fine var: of Baldwinia uniflora. These are noticed in Sill. Journ. of May last. This dearth of novelty, together with the heat, ticks, & Chigres, have left me little inducement to further exploration for Phanerogs. You, who live at the noath, have no idea of the nuisances we undergo in this region by a single step in the woods. The vermin are intolerable. It is only a fresh & untried pasion that can resist them for a few seasons. Enumerate, if you can, the working botanists in the S. States at this time. All seem to give out in a few years. I would continue to collect, if I could recieve anything new in return, but I got tired of recieving parcels with no novelties. Engelmann is now the only one with whom I keep up old habits.

But there is a difficulty in the study of Fungi which may erelong check my investigations. Every species, & every specimen indeed, has to be brought under the Microscope. I have been for 25 yrs: affected with Muscae volitantes, (I suppose it is what the Faculty so call), & they are increasing, & getting more and more in the direct line of vision. These interfere sometimes with clear sight with a Microscope, & I fear may eventually put a stop to its use.

Present kind regards to Mr. Carey. I shall have a small packet for him by & by, of which I shall give timely notice.

Very respectfully

M. A. Curtis.

TORREY BOTANICAL CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

P.S. I enclose a Solorina found here a few days ago, which seems to me to be new. Can you give me any information upon it? I have a good many new Lichens.

10

Prof. J. Torrey

Princeton

N. Jersey.

Fld. & and
March 20th 1850

Society Hill, S. Car. March 15th 1850.

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

My Dear Sir,

Your letter of Sept^r last has remained so long unanswered, because I was in constant expectation of the packages you were so good as to send me, & I waited to acknowledge them. They have not yet arrived, & Mr. Carey writes me that Riley cannot now find them. If the Schweinitzian specimens are lost, I shall never forgive John Riley for his carelessness, as they would be invaluable & cannot be replaced. You could not have conferred a greater favor upon me, than by such a present, & I am ready to return the favor in kind, or by such other specimens as I may be able to furnish.

I was not aware before, that you had published the Tuckahoe. Your name, being first, should have been retained, but I suppose it was unknown. In saying that no Mycologist regards this product as a Fungus, I meant at this present time. It must share the fate of most, if not all, the Sclerotia, for not having any organization that can give it the character of an autonymous vegetable. From the many specimens I have examined, I infer that it is not a growth upon roots, or wood buried in the earth, but an actual transfor-

mation of the wood into that peculiar substance. I have it in all stages. I have seen it upon an old Pine rail, lying in the ground. The reason why it is found by itself, appears to be, that it grows from every point of the matrix – as it were centrifugally – finally covering up the ends & converting the whole wood into pectin. This is the case, where the piece of wood is short. When long, it surrounds the wood in the shortest diameter, & then gradually extends longitudinally, making long misshapen masses, as large & long as my thigh. – As to the duration of the thing I have no knowledge. It is found on the roots of Arundinaria, as well as on wood. And a few days ago, two small ones were ung up in my Garden, one of which was evidently around the root of an herbaceous plant.

I sent you a few things through Mr. Carey the past winter, which I suppose you have received. As I have not lately collected much, & but little new matter is found here, I have not much on hand to interest you. Hence the smallness of the packet. But as I have this year to make collections for European correspondents, I will also gather for you whatever I may think will be of service to you. Of novelties I expect nothing. But there are some plants here which you could use profitably in exchanges. – I sent you a good specimen of the very rare Baptisia Serenae. What do you think of it? – I sent also Carex tuberculata, as I suppose. Is it your plant? – It is not Elliott's C. folliculata, as you suspected, for I examined his Carices last month. The plant in Herb. Ell. is a true C. folliculata. But this plant at the South has commonly shorter scales than the Northern plant. I can give you the result of my examination of Elliott's Carices, if

you wish it. — The specimens are few, & mostly from correspondents. The Herbarium is of little value, & going to decay.

With renewed thanks for your favors.

I am, dear Sir,,

very truly your friend & servt

M. A. Curtis.

SOCIETY HILL
MAR
10
S.C.

10

Prof. J. Torrey

Princeton

N. Jersey.

Rec'd of Letter sent to Bailey July 1, 1850. (June 25)

consult you & Prof. Gray - I am glad Dr. G. took them in hand. - I offered to take charge of the Fungi, if there were any, & received thirty species, one Lichen & one Hydrophyte - Not a very formidable collection, & a part of the species identical with some of our commonest forms. By Berkley's aid nearly the whole are made out & described. There are eight new species.

I am not at all acquainted with Davidson College - but I believe it is only a local affair - an institution established by a Presbytery in that region. I recollect Dr. Hunter's name among the original Trustees, & he can doubtless give you all needed information as well as forward the interests of your friend Holton.

Should you see Prof. Short after receiving this, do not fail to remember me to him. He has long owed me a letter, & I have for years been wondering what had became of him.

I did not see Prof. Bailey - should be glad to meet with him.

Can you enclose me a leaf of Betula papyracea? I am anxious to settle a specimen in my Herb. from the top of Black Mt., which is that or B. excelsa. I have only leaves. It would be curious enough, if it was B. papyracea; but most likely it is the other. I could not get at the trunk or aments, as the two or three trees were out of my reach on a precipice. The shape of the leaf is that of B. papyracea in Michx. Sylva.

Believe me

very truly yours

M. A. Curtis.

P. S. I have opened my letter to enclose a bit of root of Apple-tree just dug up in my Orchard, upon which a small Tuckahoe had formed, about 2 inches in diameter. The root sticks out at two sides of the

thing, a part of one of which I send you. You will see that the woody matter is converted into Sclerotin!

110

Prof. J. Torrey
Princeton
N. Jersey.

Society Hill, S. C. Jan: 15th 1851.

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

My Dear Sir,

I have yours of the 15th ult, & am much obliged to you for the favor.

I have sent a parcel of plants to Charleston for you, directed to care of John Wiley, N. York. – I hope it will reach you in good condition, & prove serviceable to you, though but a small collection. It is part of a collection made here last season, & you will therefore know the localities of all the species when these are not indicated. You will see nothing new, but I suppose the specimens will be useful in exchange. – Next year, if prospered, I will send you more.

I will mention now, lest I forget it, that I have had communication with Tuckerman since his return home, & have learned that the curious Soloina I sent you in a letter last Spring is S. Desprauxii, Mont:. It had been previously collected by Lea in Ohio. – I surely thought I had got a new species; but it is as good as new for its oddity.

I am pleased that you have reserved the Texan Fungi for me. I have a few of Wright's collection already, but hardly anything of interest. The same may be said of a few species gathered in N. Mexico by Fendler. I possess them by the favor of Mr. Tuckerman. I hope yours will contain something more

valuable. — That thing you sent me, with the Schweinitzian parcel, collected by somebody at Key West, is a choice thing, probably new. I hope you will always send me Fungi when you get them.

Could you not get these explorers at the West, Texas, N. Mexico, &c. to gather Fungi also, whenever they see them? I should be delighted always to get any. Dead sticks & leaves, that have any extraneous bodies or matter on them are pretty sure to be Fungi, & require no further attention than mapping in a piece of paper, recording the locality & especially the matrix. The fleshy species are too troublesome. The woody Polypores &c. are apt to be destroyed by insects, unless poisoned, & are often bulky. But what I mentioned first would give very little trouble to a collector. And if these men choose to distribute such species, I will elaborate them with the aid of Berkeley.

I think my Asclepias aceratoides must be A. obovata, Ell. Let me know what you think of it, when you get my specimens. Unfortunately I have not succeeded in finding fruit yet. There were plenty of flowers this year, & that is all.

The Schweinitz plants you sent me are very choice. I have no doubt what some are, of those deficient in names, but of others it can never be ascertained, without comparison with his Herb. specimens, what was intended, at least beyond mere probability. This is a great pity, as authentication is of high importance in so obscure a class. I am rapidly increasing my stock of authentic species from European Authors, & hope to leave behind me a good stock for future Mycologists in this country to begin

[P.S. — Please send packet of Texan Fungi by Express to Charleston
" care of J. & J.S. Kirkpatrick.]

upon. That will be the most important work I can perform in this department, I suspect.

It was my intention to send you a good Tuckahoe upon Oak Roots, in progress of growth; but I forgot it till this moment. I regret it much, as I am going to bring you in the end to accept my theory. I thought my letter specimen would settle it with you, for there was the bark unchanged, the wood all gone, & pectin filling up the cavity. Pray tell what has become of the wood in all these cases? If you resolve me this question satisfactorily, I shall have to give up; but not till then. Prof: Bailey need not trouble himself to find spores — they are not to be found. All Sclerotioid bodies are in the opinion of Leveillé, Berkeley, &c. spurious. Fries, however, does not yet wholly yield on this point, but his proofs are obscure & imperfect. In some cases they are doubtless metamorphosed Fungi — & this may possibly be the case with Pachyma Cocos, though I think not, — in all which cases they are imperfect species of other Genera, & in others mere diseased enlargements like Phyllerium & Erineum. These have no fructification. And Fries himself does not pretend to find in Sclerotia anything more than cells, not always these, which he supposes are the cells of sporidia. (Vid: Summa Vegetab: Scandinaviae (1849.) Sect. posterior, p. 477, note.)

Whatever are your conclusions I shall be glad to have them & shall also respect them as presumptively more accurate than my own.

Believe me, Dear Sir, very truly your friend
M. A. Curtis.

CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
UNIVERSITY

ROCHESTER
JAN
1 8
N.C.

10

Prof. J. Torrey

Princeton

N. Jersey.

Society Hill, S. C. Feb. 17th 1851.

HERBARIUM CORRESPONDENCE
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

My Dear Sir,

The little packet of Fungi came to hand three or four days ago, & I have had time to look sufficiently at them to make a pretty fair estimate of their value. The majority of the species are common. Of the Agaricini little use can be made, it being generally impossible to determine dried specimens of these when unaccompanied by notes taken from the fresh specimen. Even with these, it is often desperate work. Quite a number of Wrightis specimens of these were so dissolved, & eaten by insects, that I cast them into the fire. In other classes there are some very interesting species. Among them I was glad to find a Sphaeria (Hypocrea) detected by Raveñel this winter at his place, & which will bear Ravenel's name. There are also several other species not yet published. —— Thus much for the collection.

I write now only because I wish to know what disposition Mr. Wright wishes to make of these specimens. A part of them are numbered, which looks as if he wished a report upon them, & to distribute them. If such is his wish, I will make out a list of such as are resolvable. But the specimens being only partly numbered, & many species without duplicates, I rather conclude that he did not intend to distribute. But I shall be glad to know his intentions. I shall also be glad to

have some correspondence with him, if you will give me his address, in reference to the selection & preservation of Fungi.

I should be glad to hear from you soon in reference to matters above mentioned.

I hope you have got the parcel of plants I sent you.

I forgot to mention in my last, that your long lost present of Pamphlets turned up while I was preparing your packet. A Box from France, covered with oil-cloth which was nailed down on all sides, passed through Wiley's hands about the time your little parcel was sent to him. This was inserted under the oil-cloth at the bottom of the Box, & nailed in again. Wiley & his men never advised me of the process, & could remember nothing of the packet, which I had for long given up as irrevocably lost. On tearing off this oil-cloth from the Box for the purpose of wrapping your plants, the parcel came to light!! I am now, though two years & more (I believe) since presented, to return my thanks for the favor. — I already had Schlechtendahl's Monograph on Aseroe, which I now turn over to Ravenel, retaining your copy for myself.

I remain very respectfully
your friend
M. A. Curtis.

WILEY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

P.S. I enclose a leaf of my doubtful Betula. I should like your opinion of the species. I thought, when I collected it, from the bark of the trunk that it was B. papyracea. And I am not yet satisfied whether it is not. Unfortunately without specimens, I cannot decide the matter. I am the more desirous of your decision, because this comes under notice in an article for a N. Car. Gazetteer now in preparation.

As to Lpach, he seems to leave all Genera in more confusion than he finds. He is much too Rafinesquian.

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

ROCHESTER
FEB
18
N.Y.
S.C.

10

Prof. J. Torrey

Princeton

N. Jersey.

Charlestown (Mass.) Sept. 1st '51.

CORRESPONDENCE
ATHENÆUM
VERSITY.

My Dear Sir.

I have been a wanderer from home since the last week in May, in search of health. I am now quite well again, & intend being in N.Y. York a few days about the middle of the month. It would give me pleasure to see you, if you should be in the city at the time, & could spare a little leisure upon me. Will you leave a line for me at Putnam's, stating when & where I may call upon you in the city, if it should be agreeable to you to waste a spare hour with me?

I have not yet been over to Cambridge, not knowing if Prof. Gray has yet returned. I hope to see him before I leave.

I have two or three weeks to spend in Phil^{a}, after leaving N.Y. where I wish to overhaul Herb. Schwein.

As I hope to see you, & am now in haste, I will detain you no farther than to subscribe myself

your obliged friend

& servt

M. A. Curtis.